

Civil Service unions step up strike with Irish blockade

Civil Service unions yesterday called out customs officials in Northern Ireland and eight ports in Wales and the West of England in a move aimed at stopping 60 per cent of exports from the Irish

Republic. In the Commons Mrs Margaret Thatcher accused the unions of putting personal gain before the safety of the realm after their refusal to carry out vital jobs at Polaris bases.

Thatcher attack on Polaris ban

David Felton
Staff Reporters
Civil Service unions yesterday stepped up their five-week strike with strikes directed at plans to import from the Irish Republic as Mrs Margaret Thatcher made a stinging attack on the unions, accusing them of putting personal gain before the safety of the realm.



The Prime Minister's remarks in the Commons followed the unions' refusal to carry out vital jobs at Polaris bases on the Clyde and the West of England. The unions say they have been told by senior Naval officials that forces personnel will be drafted in to do the work. The unions have threatened to make a similar attack on the 540,000 white-collar civil servants if that happens. Mrs Thatcher said the government would "take all steps" to see that the country's deterrent remained effective.

Industrial action by the civil servants boosted the central government borrowing requirement to an estimated £13,000m in the year just ended compared with the £12,700m predicted by the Treasury in last year's Budget statement, according to figures published in the Treasury yesterday.

The total cost of the action, put at between £730m and £800m in March, but that was reduced by offsetting factors amounting to more than £100m. Money originally provided for was not drawn by a series of departments.

This is not revenue lost but a drain on the Treasury, Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, said yesterday. He said the union instead of the Inland Revenue. The cheques would normally be processed by computer centres where staff members are on strike.

Express Newspapers said the cheques had been sent to an Inland Revenue collection office in the City and it did not know how they had come into the possession of the union.

Mr Christopher said the union's action, which was aimed at forcing the government to pay a £100m staff bonus, was a "disruption to the country's economy". He said the action by 300 customs officials in Northern Ireland and eight ports in the West of England would cost the Treasury about £60 per cent of Ireland's exports being shipped.

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Union leaders were trying to restrain members working in the Departments of Employment and Health and Social Security from taking action, but the Government could face a "very severe escalation of the dispute" unless there were negotiations soon, Mr Graham said.

Many managers of government departments were "at the end of their tether trying to keep the systems going" and he thought it scandalous that Naval officers were being placed in the position of trying to secure the country's defences.

The Government last night



Lord Nicholas Windsor



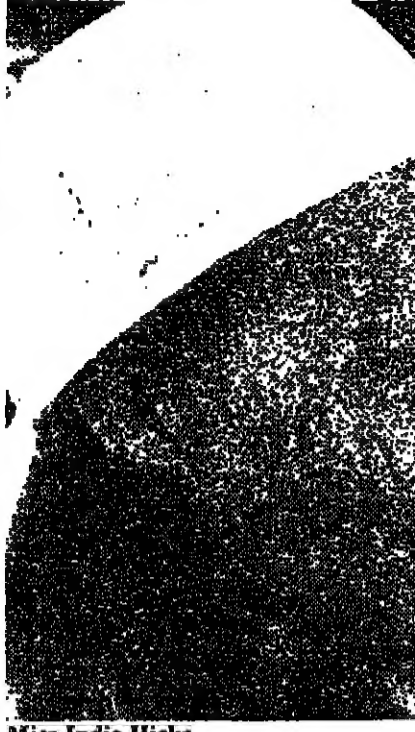
Edward van Cutsem



Miss Catherine Cameron



Miss Sarah Jane Hamble



Miss India Hicks



Miss Clementine Hambro



Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones

Attendants for royal bride are chosen

Buckingham Palace, announcing the names of bridesmaids and pages for the royal wedding at St Paul's Cathedral on July 29, said yesterday that there was no information about the possibility of President Reagan attending. Security plans are being

drawn up to provide protection for heads of state who will be invited. Among the bridesmaids and pages (above) will be Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, the daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Richard Hambro and a great-granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill. The

five, a pupil at a kindergarten where Lady Diana Spencer taught before her engagement to the Prince of Wales. Clementine is the daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Richard Hambro and a great-granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill. The

wedding ring will be made from a nugget of Welsh gold used to make the wedding rings of the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. The ring will be made by the Royal Naval Cookery School at HMS Pembroke, Chatham (Report, page 3).

Democrats claim more than 43,500 recruits

By Fred Emery
Political Editor
More than 39,000 people applied to join the Social Democrats in the fortnight after their launching as a "fresh political party", and more than 4,000 were registered as non-member supporters.

Announcing a grand total of 43,500 recruits, Mr Michael Foot, leader of the party, said the party had a "very good" initial recruiting figures, representing people who were "very committed".

He said a geographical breakdown of membership would have to wait until the party's first computer print-out next month. His own impression was that most applicants had no previous party membership.

New supporters named in the SDP's first newsletter included Mr David Purnham, producer of the film *Christy of Fire*, and Sir John Kendrew, director of the European Microbiology Organisation and Dr John Adams, director of CERN, the physics research centre, near Geneva.

Mr Rodgers, holding a news conference at Westminster, placed on record for the first time that the party was giving no advice to members and supporters on how to vote in the next month's local elections.

Hitherto the SDP has said only that it is neither nominating its own candidates nor endorsing others.

If individual SDP MPs recommended voting Liberal, as has Mr Richard Crossman, MP for

Liverpool, Tooting, that was entirely a personal matter and "carries no wider implications". He emphasized that no candidate calling himself a Social Democrat (as do the separate Social Democratic Alliance) would have SDP backing.

Mr Rodgers clearly did not wish to discuss the Social Democrats' postponement of joint discussions with the Liberals. He said he did not know when they would begin, but the question of "timing and tactics" would be discussed.

The closely held membership figures appeared to surprise even some of those closely involved. It means that the party has already met its end-of-the-year target and is two thirds of the way to the 63,000 figure Mr Rodgers cited for the end of the year. Some SDP members prefer to aim at a range of 60,000 to 100,000.

Although Mr Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle, East, and a former Cooperative Party activist, reckoned that the SDP figures looked well against a figure of 120,000 to 180,000, which he cited for the Labour Party, the formal comparisons are somewhat less flattering.

The Labour Party claims 333,000 members, but admits this is only an estimate; the Conservatives produce an estimate of 1,500,000 members. The Liberals claim 150,000 to 200,000 members.

Social Democratic peers yesterday elected Lord Aylestone as their leader in the Lords. His deputy is Lord Perry of Walton, and the SDP Whip is Lord Kennet.

UK firms listed over S Africa pay

By Malcolm Brown
Major British companies are failing to give details of the pay and conditions of black workers in their South African operations.

Eighteen companies, which Whitehall believes have (or may have) reporting responsibility under the European Economic Community's voluntary code of conduct on the treatment of black workers, were named in a Department of Trade document yesterday.

The department said that the companies had not submitted reports covering the 12 months ending June 30 last year. More than 180 companies have complied by the deadline.

The department is quick to name the companies. They are thought to be so-called Category A companies—those which have 50 per cent or more of the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans—or companies "whose status has not been

established in terms of reporting responsibility". The report, code of conduct for companies with interests in South Africa, says: "It should not be assumed that all the companies listed... have a Category A (the most important) or indeed any reporting responsibilities under the code. Complete or partial disinvestment and the merger of companies has sometimes resulted either in no reporting responsibility, or a diminished reporting responsibility."

The list includes: companies such as Bowthorpe Holdings and the Rentokil Group which are in Category A reports and 28 other companies. The 13 Category A companies which were analysed in detail (others arrived too late) employed about 118,000 blacks.

Of this total, about 1,000 were paid at rates described as "above the lower level of the subsistence data used" and 102,000 were paid at rates above the higher datum level.

Of the remaining 14 companies, 10 also failed to provide a report last year or provided insufficient information. The 13 companies are: British Vint, John Brown & Co, ETR, C and I Clark, Crpda International, Callagher, Grundy (Teddington), Hickson & Welch (Holdings), Marley, Morson Crucible, Pritchard, Services Group, and Sun Alliance and London Assurance.

Yesterday's report covers 184 companies—142 in Category A, 14 in Category B (those holding 10 to 49 per cent of a South African company), employing 20 or more black Africans, and 28 other companies. The 13 Category A companies which were analysed in detail (others arrived too late) employed about 118,000 blacks.

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Thousands camp out to see lift-off

From Michael Lesman
Cape Canaveral, April 9

Thousands of spectators were camping out along the Florida coast today to be sure of good viewing positions for the launching of the first space shuttle shortly after dawn tomorrow. Excitement grew as the prospect for a lift-off on time at 6:50 am (12:50 pm BST) looked better and better.

An official said he thought the chance of a launch tomorrow was now 80 per cent.

The reason for the high public interest is two fold. Not only is the Columbia the first vehicle able to enter and reenter space time and again—thus an example of brand-new technology—but it is also the first time America has put a man in space for six years.

Last night the service structure, a great gantry which had partly shielded the plump, delta-winged craft from view, was retracted. It left the shuttle and its cigar-shaped fuel tank and rocket burners open to view.

Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen, the crew, got out of bed at 2 am today, getting their bodies accustomed to the schedule they will follow tomorrow.

Launch programme, details and photographs will be available tomorrow.

Biggs extradition order issued

Bridgetown, Barbados, April 9.—Britain won its battle to pay for an extradition order against Ronald Biggs, the great bank robber.

The Barbados chief magistrate issued the order and instructed that Mr Biggs, aged 38, be committed to prison until he is handed over to British authorities. Mr Biggs has 10 days to lodge an appeal, apply for a writ of habeas corpus or apply for bail—Reuters.

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James Lang Wootton
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Anti-Wilson television plot denied

alleged plot to issue a call for a new election in 1985 was disclosed on television. The "plot" was said to have been planned to make the live from the Albert Hall in London cutting into a television news broadcast. The man said to have been passing the idea denied being involved in any plot.

2 police cases

Two cases of alleged corruption London police officers are being investigated by a Scotland Yard squad. The allegations were first uncovered in a report by the Metropolitan Police. The two officers concerned are from the Central Division and the allegations are being investigated by the Central Division.

24m tanker award

syndicates and companies said they would appeal against a High Court ruling that they pay £24m compensation to Shell for the loss of 179,000 tons of oil in the tanker Salem. The tanker was later sunk off Senegal after its oil had been delivered to Durban.

Safety measures at Windscale criticized

Three investigators appointed by the Health and Safety Executive have strongly criticized past safety arrangements at British Nuclear Fuels' reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria.

Art dealers cleared

Thomas Agnew and Sons, Bond Street art dealers, were found "not guilty of infringing the Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act. The prosecution regarded it as a test case to clarify the law as it applies to partnership buying at auction. It is expected that there will be an appeal.

Bank unions clash

A dispute has broken out between the two main banking unions, the Clearing Bank Union (CUBU) and the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU). The two unions traded insults after BIFU's rejection of a 10 per cent pay offer which has been accepted by the CUBU.

Bomb at by-election

A 300lb bomb, packed in three milk churns, was discovered and defused in the Rosslea area of Fermanagh and South Tyrone as polling in the by-election there drew to a close. Spoils papers may decide the ballot.

Ten candidates for French presidency

Ten candidates have obtained the required number of sponsors to enter the French presidential elections on April 26. Mrs Thatcher's agreement on EEC farm prices and the Franco-German loan arranged with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, are expected to favour President Giscard d'Estaing's chances of reelection.

El Salvador killings

United States Embassy officials have confirmed reports that at least 20 people were massacred by Salvadoran security forces on Tuesday. Washington said there appeared to be an deliberate policy of murder by both left and right to destabilize El Salvador.

Chad: Wrecked capital city tries to adjust to peace

Ottawa: MPs reach compromise on Canada's constitution dispute.

The Pilgrims' Airport: Special Report

on the new international airport at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 21; Motoring, 30; Personal, 30, 32; Property, 21

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Shell wins £24m claim over Salem's lost oil

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Shell won its claim in the High Court yesterday for £24m compensation for last year's loss of 179,000 tons of oil in the tanker *Salem*.

Mr Justice Mustill granted the company a declaration that it was entitled to recover the money as a result of the oil being "taken at sea", a risk covered by the relevant insurance policy.

Sixty-nine Lloyd's syndicates and 29 companies, about half the London marine insurance market, are involved and are expected to appeal. The decision that could affect the form of future insurance contracts for ships' cargoes.

The underwriters had argued that they were not responsible because the tanker was hijacked from Kuwait to Italy, whereas the ship did not make that voyage but was diverted to Durban, where she discharged. She was later sunk off Senegal. The judge described what happened as a "bold and essentially simple device by which a group of dishonest men had contrived to make away with the ship full of oil".

He ruled, however, that the voyage on which the 218,000-ton tanker embarked when she left Kuwait was a voyage for which she was insured. The oil was at risk, wherever the voyage ended.

The conspirators had deceived the Kuwaiti authorities, who would never have allowed the tanker to sail, had they known what was planned. The judge said, and they had deceived South African bankers and financiers, who were unwitting victims of the plot.

The cost to the underwriters if the claim succeeds will be about £10m because Shell will have to hand to the underwriters £14m already received in compensation from the South African Oil purchasing agency. Lloyd's describe it as an average claim.

There has still been no claim by Mr Frederick Soudan, of Texas and Liberia, the owner, for compensation for loss of the ship. He is one of four men for whom warrants for arrest were issued to Scotland Yard by Guildhall magistrates last year.

The others are Captain Dimitrios Georgoulis, of Piraeus, Greece, master of the *Salem*, Mr Anton Reidel, company director, of Rotterdam, and Mr Johannes Jurgen Locks, company director, of Frankfurt.

Dutch police were understood to be interviewing Mr Reidel yesterday about what has been described as the biggest and most audacious fraud of its kind in maritime history.

Mr Rivlin said it had also been nonsense for Mr Symonds, aged 45, to suggest that one of the reporters, Mr Gareth Lloyd, had a history of mental disorder.

Mr Symonds, who was stationed at Camberwell, south London, has denied three charges of corruptly accepting a total of £150 from a former petty thief, Mr Michael Perry, in 1969 in return for helping him over an arrest. It is alleged that tape recordings were taken by the two reporters who were investigating police corruption.

Opening his address to the jury, Mr Symonds, who is conducting his own defence, said the prosecution had been defensive because they had very little to go on. "All they hope to do is to get a bit of suspicion and innuendo, and knit up some sort of a case. The prosecution are relying upon a criminal with 26 convictions."

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Royal wedding security to allow for Reagan visit

By Staff Reporters

Security plans for the royal wedding at St Paul's Cathedral on July 29 are being drawn up to provide protection for a number of heads of state, possibly including President Reagan.

The likelihood of a visit by the President, who was shot and wounded last week, has been mentioned informally but will depend on his health in the summer.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday they had no information about the possibility of the President attending and pointed out that invitations would be sent only at the beginning of next month.

The palace also said that the Prince of Wales is due to meet the President and Mrs Reagan in Washington at the beginning of May while returning from his trip to Australia, New Zealand and Venezuela.

It was announced yesterday that a pupil aged five at a kindergarten where Lady Diana taught before her engagement to the Prince would be a bridesmaid.

Clementine Hambro, a great-granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, will be the youngest of five bridesmaids and two pages at the wedding. She is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hambro and a granddaughter of Lord and Lady Somers.

Other bridesmaids will be Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, aged 17, the daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, who was also a bridesmaid at the wedding of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips.

Broadmoor man in freedom plea

By Lucy Hodges

A patient at Broadmoor special hospital who has claimed for eight years that he was wrongly convicted of violent sexual assault applied yesterday to a mental health review tribunal to be released.

Mr John Walters, aged 34, who has said he wishes to change sex, was supported in his plea by Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists.

A former Broadmoor psychologist testified that he was not a danger to the public, but Mr Walters's doctor disagreed. Mr Walters's lawyer said he had been transferred to Broadmoor 19 days before the end of a four-year prison sentence. Judgment was reserved.

Corruption trial man threw 'dirt', jury is told

From Richard Ford
Middlesbrough

A former detective sergeant in the Metropolitan Police had thrown as much "dirt" as possible throughout his trial for alleged corruption in the hope that some of it would stick, a jury was told yesterday.

Several people had been accused of dishonesty by the defendant, Mr John Symonds, including the late Lord Thomson of Fleet and two former reporters on *The Times* who investigated police corruption. Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, said in his closing speech. The reporters had also been accused of acting as agents provocateurs.

"That is nonsense," he told the 12-man jury at Teesside Crown Court. "He is trying to make you believe that the two reporters got all this up. What a twisted situation that would be. They did not set it up."

Mr Rivlin said it had also been nonsense for Mr Symonds, aged 45, to suggest that one of the reporters, Mr Gareth Lloyd, had a history of mental disorder.

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TV union's ban on pop music series 'unlawful'

By Kenneth Gosling

In its first ruling under the Employment Act, 1980, the Court of Appeal decided yesterday that a television union's action in blocking a 13-part television series on pop music was unlawful.

Hadmor Productions, of Croydon, were granted an injunction against the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians preventing the further blocking of the series, "Unforgettable", which Thames Television and other companies started showing earlier this year.

The injunction was against two union officials, Mr Robert Hamilton and Mr Peter Bould. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said: "They must leave Thames Television to make their own decision whether to go on with the series or not, free from any interference by unlawful means."

He also said that the blocking might previously have given immunity under the Act of 1974, but under the Act of 1980, "secondary blocking" had no immunity.

The injunction against the ACTT remains effective until trial or further court order.

Law Report, page 22

Cheap bus tickets for firms

By Our Transport
Correspondent

Cheap bus tickets supplied by employers to staff will be available in many parts of Britain from today.

Similar to the London Traveller operation launched last year by London Transport,

the scheme allows companies to buy tickets in bulk at a generous discount with additional tax advantages to hand on to staff.

Tickets will be available initially on National Bus Company routes in Oxford, Maidenhead, Slough, Aylesbury, Luton, Wycombe and Gatwick.

Salmonella 'found in 79% of shop chickens'

Almost four-fifths of the 400 million chickens eaten in Britain each year contain salmonella, the most common cause of food poisoning, it was claimed yesterday by Mr Richard Gilbert, director of the Food Hygiene Laboratory.

He told a conference of health officers in London that there was an urgent need for basic hygiene techniques to be taught to all people handling food.

"Meat is responsible for 43 per cent of outbreaks, poultry for 42 per cent, rice 6 per cent, and milk and cream 4 per cent," Mr Gilbert said. "Salmonella is responsible for 85 per cent of all cases of food poisoning."

Almost half the sausages tested from a batch of 854 packs from one company were infected.

Britons ate an average of seven chickens a year, and examination of a hundred frozen chickens from shops found that 79 per cent contained salmonella.

Raw and cooked meats and poultry presented the main dangers, he said. Six hundred salmonella bacteria added to a chicken kept in a warm room had multiplied to almost 30 million within 24 hours.

Cooking caution: Salmonella poisoning usually results from a food that either has not been thoroughly cooked or kept too long without being sufficiently chilled (a Medical Correspondent writes). Frozen poultry, particularly, should be thoroughly thawed and well cooked.

£1m study of science subjects in schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Up to £1m will be spent over the next five years on the most ambitious analysis of the science curriculum in secondary schools, the Schools Council said yesterday.

The Government, in its recent report on the school curriculum, pointed to the increasing importance of science and technology and to the need to develop courses incorporating elements of the three main sciences and suited to all children up to the age of 16.

The Schools Council said its work was intended to be complementary to that of the Government. Its project was designed to develop a system of science courses for pupils of all abilities, giving them at least a grounding in science during their compulsory school years.

Among the 13 aims identified for the project are: to consider ways of introducing more technology into science courses; to suggest how the three sciences, biology, physics, and chemistry, can be taught to all pupils without dominating the curriculum; and to suggest how science education in schools can be linked to the needs of further and higher education and employment.

The Schools Council, which is funded jointly by local authorities and the Government, is providing about £500,000 for the project. A further £10,000 is being provided by the Association of Science Education, representing 17,000 science teachers, whose members will be closely involved in the work.

Financial support will also be sought from other agencies, including the Department of Industry and charitable organizations, which according to the Schools Council could bring the total funding up to nearly £1m. Work is due to begin this summer.

The Schools Council's own report on the curriculum, which was published yesterday, received a warm welcome from teachers' organizations, employers and parents.

The Practical Curriculum: Schools Council working paper 70 (Methuen Educational), £3.50.

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The Schools Council's own report on the curriculum, which was published yesterday, received a warm welcome from teachers' organizations, employers and parents.

The Practical Curriculum: Schools Council working paper 70 (Methuen Educational), £3.50.

Hooliganism may close the Tubes at 10 pm

By Our Transport
Correspondent

Violence by hooligans against London Transport staff has become so serious that the entire Underground network may be closed from 10 pm each day, Mr Charles Cope, managing director of the Underground, said yesterday.

Drunken teenagers and football supporters are among the main offenders, and incidents probably running into thou-

sands each year. Those serious enough for court action rose from about 500 to nearly 800 in the three years to 1980.

"The public must understand that staff do not come on duty to be thumped," Mr Cope said. "The danger is that unless hooliganism is checked, either management will have to enforce a shutdown or staff will do it themselves by walking out."

Trouble spots include South-



Brixton escaper: Police hunting James Moody (above) who escaped from Brixton prison in London last December, believe he may be hiding on the South Coast in a caravan or chalet (Our Crime Reporter writes). Mr Moody is wanted in connection with three armed robberies involving £900,000. He is 6ft 1in tall and Police say he is a keen fit and scuba diving strong aversion to smoking and dogs.

Check-in

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62"

34"

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They won't.

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We'll take more care of you.

Report on complaints broke promise, Police Federation says

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

An accusation that the unpublished report by the Home Office Research Unit on the handling of police complaints, disclosed by *The Times*, breached an undertaking given by a senior civil servant, now in the Cabinet Office, was made yesterday by the Police Federation.

The civil servant is Mr Wilfred Hyde, an assistant secretary in the Cabinet Office secretariat. "The research is not intended to examine the complaints procedure itself," he wrote in a letter to the federation dated July 7, 1978. He was then at the Home Office.

The researchers, Mr Hyde wrote, would not be considering the conduct of individual officers and had undertaken that nothing in their final report would enable specific incidents, individual police officers, or particular police stations to be identified. "The Commissioner of Police (Sir David McNeel) will be given an opportunity to see the report in draft to satisfy himself on this point."

The research would not be examining the way complaints investigations were handled, so the final report would not comment on any aspect of the complaints procedure.

"We do not consider that the report will in any way conflict with the triennial review of the Police Complaints Board," Mr Hyde added.

The review has in fact since recommended reforms in the way complaints of assault by the police are investigated.

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday: "On any fair assessment, the report summarised in *The Times* shows that the researchers have breached all those undertakings." Further, as Sir David McNeel made clear in his statement on Wednesday, he had not seen the report.

The report went into details of the way investigations of specific cases were handled and said there were serious defects in the system.

Neither Mr Jardine nor Chief Supt John Keyte, secretary of the Superintendents' Association, had immediately recognised the report as the one about which assurances were given in 1978. That is why they were taken by surprise when it appeared in *The Times*.

Mr Jardine said the report which had emerged was completely different from the terms of reference "we understood would govern the research."

It emerged yesterday that although the Home Office has described the report as "uncompleted", the first two stages were apparently complete in 1978, the year it said the research began.

Mr Jardine said that in that year the Police Federation was asked for its views on the preparation of a third stage of the research project into relations between the police and the ethnic minorities.

That third stage was to have been an examination of all the circumstances in which members of ethnic minorities made complaints against the police.

The Home Office yesterday would not add to its carefully worded comment of the day before, but enough has emerged to indicate how the controversy is inflaming the main issue about the police today, their public accountability.

Mr Hyde added that the review has in fact since recommended reforms in the way complaints of assault by the police are investigated.

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Government accepts plan for social survey cuts

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government has accepted the main recommendations of a forthcoming Rayner report on cutting social surveys, despite growing protests from MPs, civil servants and academics. The Government response will be published in a 10-page White Paper, with the report, after the Easter recess.

The report will cover studies of each government department, compiled by teams under the direction of Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency in Whitehall.

The main concern focuses on the future of the social survey division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. The Rayner report throws considerable doubt on the future of the General Household Survey, which now costs £905,000 a year and provides continuous data on the circumstances of 15,000 British households.

The report says: "It is the only regular source of information about the relationship between a wide range of social and economic variables (attitudes to pay of public sector workers, for example, or the family circumstances of the unemployed or the purchase of property by sitting tenants)."

The report accepts that axing the survey would be likely to create an outcry that the Government does not want to know about the well-being of its citizens. It advises, therefore, that it should be continued, but with a smaller sample and a limit on the cost of not more than £550,000 a year.

Parallel appointments: Lieutenant-General Alan Raye (left), who became Director-General of the Army Medical Services on Sunday, with Air Marshal David Atkinson, who takes over as Director-General of Medical Services with the RAF next Wednesday. Both are aged 56 and were medical students together at Edinburgh University, where they knew each other well. They graduated in 1948.

Trust found that 27 had been reared as Roman Catholics. It appears that a Roman Catholic is four to five times more likely to become addicted to drink or drugs than someone from a different background.

"The impressions of other observers serve to confirm that, broadly speaking, 25 per cent of the prison population are Catholics," Mr Kay states. "Catholics account for possibly half the junkies in London."

Although those working in the field have been aware for many years that they came across an unusual number of Roman Catholics, he says: "The problem of crime and addiction among Catholics has been largely swept under the carpet."

The search for a radical solution has been frustrated by the lack of scientific data, and even now, in preparing for the

chair the conference. Mr Kay, a religious writer and broadcaster, also has long experience in prison visiting and after-care. His introductory paper collates the opinions and impressions of the professions he has consulted.

Among alcoholics, drug addicts, night-club "strippers", members of single sex clubs, male and female prostitutes and their clients, people living below the poverty line, patients in psychiatric hospitals, and offenders brought before the courts, Roman Catholics were present in numbers far out of proportion to their 10 to 12 per cent share of the general population.

Support for that conclusion comes from two typical hostels for alcoholics, where Roman Catholics made up 33 per cent and 41 per cent of the residents. A survey of 51 drug addicts conducted by the Life-Line

conference, he was able to gather only "an aggregate of painful impressions." He had been unable to collect the well organized evidence he sought.

The conference, though unofficial, is being watched with sympathetic interest by the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in England. The Right Rev Augustine Harris, Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough and President of the Social Welfare Commission of the Bishop's Conference, said he wished it well.

"The church must always train people to have a social conscience, and religion is not just a private matter," he commented. "I hope this conference indicates how the church can better convey the Gospel to those who are underprivileged or disadvantaged, so that they may find a positive role in the total community."

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Lords ruling undermines search for rogue cassettes

Legal snag to fighting video pirate

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The film, *Superman II*, opened last night in London with considerable publicity, but some of the profits may have been lost already in yet another coup by the video-cassette pirates.

The cassette of the original *Superman* film, although released some time ago, has yet to be distributed in Britain, let alone a cassette of the new film. However, pirated copies have been available in London for at least a fortnight.

At the beginning of this week film industry investigators raided four London dealers, seized a thousand cassettes and discovered copies of every film showing in the West End cinemas. No one was really surprised. The pirate industry continues to grow spectacularly.

It is against that background that five Law Lords this week delivered a judgment, which in the short term at least, is likely to do nothing but contribute to that growth.

Pirating is a scourge in both

the film and record industries and for some time the battle against the pirates has been waged under the copyright laws.

Investigators use a High Court order known as an "Anton Piller" order to search and seize the premises of dealers. It is an effective weapon which usually results in the destruction of the business, and 40 raids have been carried out so far this year.

The orders have an additional function, and it is that aspect of their use that has been negated by the Lords. Under the order dealers were required to disclose the source of the cassettes, but the judges decided, in examining an appeal, that dealers did not have to make disclosures because they could thus incriminate themselves.

No one in the film and record industries has so far commented on the effects of the decision, but the seizure of the master tapes from which copies are made is crucial to fighting the pirates. To deal with the dealer but not the source is

rather like arresting a street drug pusher but leaving investigation into the fitter.

The comparison is not fanciful as it seems. The evidence that professional gangs are investing in the video boom and piracy in this still constitutes theft.

The film industry is totally desolated by the judgment. The Law Lords' means make clear that change in the law are inevitable.

It is felt the judgment give the Government a *petus* to act, either by amending a Bill now before Parliament or putting forward proposals. The Department of Trade has been promising Green Paper on the issue some months.

In the meantime the industry's 27 full and part investigators work on several cases the Anton Piller orders have led them to without involving disclosure number of dealers have found with banks of 15 or copying machines.

D'Oyly Carte appeals for £1m to protect future

By Our Music Reporter

The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company must find £200,000 by the end of this month or it will be forced to close, it was announced yesterday when the organization launched an appeal for £1m.

By the end of its present tour on July 18 the company expects to have a deficit of £20,000 and the prospect of future losses. It cannot operate as a commercial company unless it is assured of substantial extra funds.

Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, chairman of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust, said: "We are not in a position to offer our artists and staff a contract. Nor are we able to sign contracts with the theatres we had planned to play in the autumn."

Although D'Oyly Carte has been refused a grant by the Arts Council, which is not happy with the company's standards and policies, the Greater London Council has come to its aid, with a grant to the company of £35,000 for two seasons in London this year.

While the £200,000 is the minimum requirement to keep the company going for the present financial year, Mr Peter Riley, deputy general manager, said the company was aiming for £1m to prevent another financial crisis next year. "We want to make positive plans, especially with regard to new productions," he said.

The Friends of D'Oyly Carte

had been formed in Britain and North America. It was hoped that those organizations would set up local committees to raise money.

Mr Riley said many supporters had written urging the company to start an appeal. Officers of help had also come from amateur groups which perform Gilbert and Sullivan works. Performers in the company are writing letters to potential sponsors suggesting ways in which help could be provided.

GLC grants: The GLC is also aiding organizations that have suffered from the withdrawal of Arts Council grants. Among grants of £50,650 to cultural bodies which were announced yesterday, the council is giving £76,000 to the Old Vic Theatre, an increase of more than 25 per cent on last year.

The Old Vic said yesterday: "We are extremely pleased and grateful. The GLC obviously feels the Old Vic is well worth supporting." Its survival plans are likely to be announced soon.

The Shaw Theatre Company, which has suspended its operations, has been offered £25,000, an increase of 66 per cent on last year. The GLC has insisted that the company must present a programme of productions for 34 weeks this year.

The increase will help to keep the Shaw Theatre, in Euston Road, available for the National Youth Theatre.

MP wins libel case over drug

Mr Jack Ashley, chairman of the disabled, was given public apology yesterday for allegations that he acted less in demanding suspension of the drug Debendox and more in greater public risk of the possible risks child vaccination.

The apology, with its closed damages and legal costs in a High Court judgement of Mr Ashley's action against the publisher *World Medicine* and Dr J Cunningham.

Mr Desmond Browne, Mr Ashley, Labour MP Stoke-on-Trent, South, told Justice Phillips that he asked the Secretary of State Social Services to suspend use of Debendox until doctors about its safety had been allayed or confirmed.

In an open letter to Ashley published in *World Medicine* last April, Cunningham accused the MP of latching on to every rumour and demanding immediate government action without thought for the harm he might through the mental agony mothers who had taken drug, Mr Browne said.

The letter was a "misrepresentation of the truth a travesty of Mr Ashley's virtues," he added.

Mr Andrew Pugh, for *Medical Journals* and Dr Cunningham, apologized to Ashley.

napf

May 7th, 8th, 9th, Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

TALKING ABOUT PENSIONS...



THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, will be the opening speaker at the Conference on Thursday 7th May and will discuss the role played by the pension fund movement in the economy.



THE PARLIAMENTARY Under Secretary of State for Social Security, Mrs Lynda Chalker, will wind up the Conference on Saturday 9th May and will speak on Resources in Later Life.



SIR HAROLD WILSON will be the special lunchtime guest speaker on Friday 8th May and can be expected to follow up the report by his Committee on the Functioning of Financial Institutions published last year.



THE CHAIRMAN of the Occupational Pensions Board, Lord Brimelow, will speak on the Board's report on protection of Occupational Pension Rights and the expectations of those who change employment.

The National Association of Pension Funds' annual conference is wide ranging. Concurrent sessions will include a debate on the question of increases to pensions and deferred pensions in the private sector. There will be a session on pre-retirement counselling. There will be discussion on Member Participation in the running of funds; and a debate on the maintenance of the real value of pensions in retirement. Problems on investment will be considered — with sessions on the current and future role of stockbrokers and on the desirability or otherwise of the issue of index linked bonds. Leaders in the pensions movement — representing all disciplines — will take part in all these discussions. There will be a separate session on the problem of communications by and within the pensions movement led by the Director General. And, during the conference, awards will be made to those pension funds who have been most successful in communicating to their members — the Golden Pen Awards.

For registration and details please write to Heather Webster, National Association of Pension Funds, Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 0XF. Telephone: 01-681 2017.

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Lords rule out court action on printing workers' tax amnesty

By John Witherow
The House of Lords ruled yesterday that small businesses cannot bring an action against the Inland Revenue for not taxing about 6,000 Fleet Street freelance newspaper workers.

The unanimous decision by five Law Lords reversed a Court of Appeal judgment last year which said that the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses was entitled to take action.

The federation, which has about 50,000 members, had alleged that the Revenue's refusal to grant an amnesty to the casual printing workers was illegal and unfair to other taxpayers.

It therefore sought an order mandating the Revenue to collect taxes due before April 1977, estimated at about £1m a year.

The amnesty was granted to the printing workers on condition that they registered with the Revenue and submitted full and accurate returns. It led to the disruption of several newspapers two years ago when officials stationed themselves in newspaper buildings to "advise" the men on the changes.

It was said that the workers had been signing for pay packets with fictional names such as "Mickey Mouse of 101 Boulevard Hollywood" or "Sir Gordon Richards of 10 Downing Street".

The Revenue appealed and the Lords ruled yesterday that a federation did not have sufficient interest to ask for the tax. It also decided that the federation should pay costs.

Lord Wilberforce, the senior law Lord, said in his judgment that the Revenue had acted "generously in the case of a management of taxes, which has no resemblance to any of the cases where the court

ought, at the instance of the taxpayer, to intervene", he said.

"To do so would involve permitting a taxpayer or a group of taxpayers to call in question the exercise of management powers and involve the court itself in a management exercise," Lord Scarman said.

Lord Scarman said it was essential for courts to have the power to curb attempts to start a court action if they thought the insurer did not have sufficient interest in the matter. That power enabled courts to prevent abuse of the system by busybodies, cranks and other mischief-makers.

Lord Roskill said he could see no dereliction of duty by the Revenue, or any suggestion of improper or unlawful conduct. On the contrary, what it did seemed to have been a matter of administrative common sense.

"Instead of wasting public time and money in seeking to collect taxes from persons and whose ability to pay was therefore equally unknown, they made an arrangement which enabled taxes... to be collectable in the future", he said.

Mr David Dexter, chairman of the federation, said afterwards: "I think it is a very sad day for small business people and schedule D taxpayers, which is the category for self-employed people."

They seem to think that 50,000 taxpayers do not have sufficient standing to bring the action. So how many people can?

"Basically we are up against discrimination. The Fleet Street workers got their amnesty. Yet the self-employed are subjected to 10 times the number of tax investigations as ordinary employed people."

Lord Widgery, then the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Griffiths, said then that the federation had not shown legal standing to ask for the order.

Mr Dexter estimated that the federation had spent about £8,000 on the case but he was unable to judge the court costs.

Law Report, page 22

Reduction to 18 urged in consent age for men

By a Staff Reporter

The minimum age for homosexual relations between consenting males in private should be cut from 21 to 18, a Home Office committee recommended yesterday. But the age of consent for sexual intercourse for a girl should remain at 16.

The report, from the Policy Advisory Committee on Sexual Offences, argues for a lowering of the age for homosexual relations on the grounds that 18 is the age of majority, and that by then the "overwhelming majority" of young men are mature enough to decide their reactions to homosexual advances.

It would also benefit homosexuals aged between 18 and 21 who may need advice and help but are deterred by fear of having to admit criminal offences.

In a minority report five of the committee's 15 members, all women, argue that the minimum age should be cut to 16. The need for counselling on difficulties of sexual identity is much greater in the 16 to 18 age group, they say, and the law should not discriminate between male and female with-out strong reason.

The Police Federation said yesterday that it was strongly opposed to the proposal for a change. "It fails to take account of the fact that many young people of this age are susceptible to pressure while living away from home, probably for the first time, which imposes a strain on people of immature years", it said in a statement.

While accepting that private homosexual conduct between consenting males over the age of 21 ought not to be a criminal offence, the federation said it deplores the way in which official thinking in the subject appears to be surrendering to the pressure groups who try to persuade society that homosexual conduct is perfectly normal.

"If this proposal succeeds no doubt it will only be a matter of time before the National Council for Civil Liberties achieves its goal of reducing the age of consent in all sexual matters to 14 years. The Federation believes that this is not what the public desires."



Paintings being hung yesterday for the Royal Academy exhibition opening on May 16.

Jehovah's Witness chooses jail

From Our Correspondent Cardiff

A father of nine children chose to go to prison for seven days yesterday rather than pay a fine for failing to send his son aged 15 to school, where he alleged sex-books contained filthy language.

David Grigsby, aged 42, an unemployed electrician, of Arran Street, Cardiff, was fined £25 by magistrates in February. At a fines default court yesterday he said that because of his religious beliefs he would not pay the fine.

Mr Grigsby, a Jehovah's Witness, withheld his son, Mark, from lessons at Howardian School, because of four-letter words in two books, *A Kestrel for a Knave*, and *John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men*.

Five north-west seaports vie to become gas field boom towns

From John Chartres Manchester

The hopes of five seaports on the north-west coast of England of becoming a "mini Aberdeen", providing services for the recently discovered Morecambe Bay gas field, should be resolved in three months.

That was disclosed yesterday when British Gas delivered a progress report on the £1,000m project, designed to produce up to 10 per cent of the nation's gas requirements during peak winter periods from 1984.

There is intense local and regional political interest in which port or ports will be selected to provide services during the construction period and later become a maintenance base.

Several thousand jobs are at stake in spin-off activities such as the provision and maintenance of helicopters and supply ships, repair facilities, and supply of the many large cranes demanded and expected by all offshore workers on oil or gas rigs.

Mr James McHugh, member of the British Gas Corporation responsible for production, said in Manchester that a detailed technical and economic study was being carried out on a number of ports. It would be

At stake are thousands of jobs in providing and maintaining helicopters and supply ships for a £1,000m project and large steaks for offshore rig workers.

Some months before a decision was taken.

In any case the suitability of the supply bases might have to be broken down into the three phases of construction, development and finally long-term maintenance.

The contenders for the privilege, ports which had "thrown their hats into the ring", stretched from North Wales to West Cumbria. Mr McHugh said. The three main contenders are thought to be Liverpool, Fleetwood and Barrow-in-Furness.

Liverpool has a special claim because of its under-used maritime facilities and its high unemployment rate. Its case for becoming the long-term maintenance base is being pressed hard by County Councilor Neville Goldrein, leader of the Conservative group on Merseyside council, in the local

authority election campaign.

Almost equal claims for consideration on grounds of job creation are being advanced from Barrow-in-Furness and from Workington and Whitehaven.

The visions of Liverpool, or indeed Workington, becoming boom towns on the Aberdeen pattern have to be restrained because the British Gas development, 25 miles off Blackpool, will involve only a single gas field, although employing six or more production rigs.

British Gas spokesmen said that 500 people would be employed during the construction period, which includes setting up rigs using a new "slant-drilling" technique, laying a pipeline to the shore and a further 31-mile pipeline to a point near Kirkby Lonsdale, where the Morecambe Bay gas will be mixed with other supplies coming down from the northern North Sea.

The requirements for the port selected as a maintenance base would involve a number of factors, Mr McHugh said. They would include the skills and facilities available, as well as tidal conditions that would enable service vessels to move out quickly at any time of day or night.

Doctors step up their car seat belt campaign

By Michael Bailey Transport Correspondent

Pressure on Parliament to introduce the compulsory wearing of seat belts is being increased by the Royal College of Surgeons and other medical institutions.

The issue is due to be debated next week but as the Transport Bill is to be gutted a decision could be delayed until later in the spring.

The Prime Minister and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, have indicated it is an issue for a free vote.

Mr Fowler has refused to incorporate a clause in the Bill despite growing pressure from MPs. More than a hundred have signed an amendment proposed by Mr David Enoch, shadow spokesman on health and social security, although it is not known whether it will be reached according to next week's timetable.

The medical campaign is led by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention, whose chairman, Professor Anthony Harding Raines, professor of surgery at Charing Cross Hospital, said: "There is concerted pressure by the medical profession. All the colleges and faculties are united. Compulsory seat belts could prevent a terrible waste of National Health Service resources."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, also supporting the campaign, estimates that seven hundred to a thousand deaths and 11,000 serious injuries could be prevented by seat belts. The cost to taxpayers is estimated at between £120m and £150m a year.

Other supporting organisations include the Automobile Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Institute of Road Safety Officers. Against them is a strong libertarian sentiment to which governments have hitherto bowed during nine attempts in 10 years through private members' Bills to make seat belts compulsory.

Compulsion is regarded as an unwarranted intrusion on individual liberty, and voluntary measures are preferred. But only 15 to 20 per cent of car users would use seat belts voluntarily, the professor's team believes, and children, for whom the Government is now prepared to make belts compulsory, represent under 5 per cent of front-seat motorists.

According to the Department of Transport, Mr Fowler's resistance to compulsion springs mainly from fear that it could damage relations between the public and the police.

00,000 pigs are destroyed in eight years

Swine disease deadlier than foot-and-mouth

Hugh Clayton Agriculture Correspondent

Two suspected cases of costly estock diseases were cleared government veterinary reasons yesterday. A flock of sheep kept near Newton, Powys, had been thought to have foot-and-mouth disease and pigs in the Humberside were feared have swine vesicular disease.

The Welsh foot-and-mouth has cleared the way for Government to lift all restrictions linked to the outbreak of the disease in the Isle of Wight in March. That was the case in Britain for 13 years of one of the fastest fading and most expensive livestock diseases.

While the state veterinary service prepares to announce successful eradication from the Isle of foot-and-mouth, it is no such confidence about

swine vesicular disease. That condition is less serious than foot-and-mouth, but it cannot be wind-borne and affects only pigs.

Swine vesicular disease is almost unknown outside the countryside, but is serious enough to be classed in law among the livestock diseases that must be reported to the police once they are suspected. It did not reach Britain until 1972, when foot-and-mouth had been known in the country for well over 100 years. The new disease was mistaken for foot-and-mouth when it first appeared, since it, too, is produced by a virus which causes swellings on the legs and mouths of animals.

A further similarity with foot-and-mouth is that all pigs in herds where swine vesicular disease is found are slaughtered and buried on government orders. This year the disease

has claimed more than twice as many animals in government slaughter campaigns as foot-and-mouth.

By mid-1976 it had appeared on more than 300 farms and had cost successive governments almost £5m in compensation to the owners of slaughtered animals. In September that year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food declared that it had been "successfully eradicated from Great Britain."

It reappeared less than a year later, and has since spread as far as Scotland and the south Midlands. The ministry has spent a further £3m on slaughter compensation. More than 300,000 pigs have been destroyed on government orders in many years since the disease reached Britain.

The virus is carried easily on tyres and boots and continues to elude government controls through slaughter, curbs on

transport of animals and disinfecting of vehicles.

Welfare warning: Members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture gave a warning to the Government yesterday that they were considering the need for further tightening of laws on farm animal welfare.

Sir William Elliott, chairman of the committee, asked government scientists why the provision of straw for sows kept in buildings should not be made compulsory. "We saw more technical and economic studies than straw than where there was not", Sir William said.

Professor W. F. Raymond, chief scientist responsible for farming at the Ministry of Agriculture, said: "I can see no adverse welfare effect. The real problem is that many pigs are kept in areas of the country where straw is not available, and so is expensive."

nesman jailed for attacking footballers

Our Correspondent

A football hooligan aged 19 attacked two players after a game in which he was fined for six months yesterday.

The game, between Crystal Palace and the Whimsy pub-house football club, had been disrupted, with many fouls, at Dudley, West Midlands, were told.

The argument continued into changing rooms, where the man, Stephen Davies, 19, was told to "get out of here because they had decided on his decisions."

He player, Terence Kettle, 15, had his jaw broken. Mr Davies told the court: "I was a lot of fighting on pitch and arguing. I lost temper. I said a few words on the pitch and he hit me with his fists and my sons and I did not like it."

Davies, of Fullwood Crescent, Holly Hall, Dudley, pleaded guilty to two charges of using grievous bodily harm and was also ordered to pay compensation for the "pain and suffering" he caused the two players, £150 to Mr Kettle and to Mr Basterfield.

Radar choice threatens 700 jobs

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

The opening shots have been fired in a cross-Channel battle involving the Royal Navy's new Sea Wolf anti-missile missile. More than 700 jobs depend on the outcome and MPs are preparing to enter the fray.

The battle is over a recent Ministry of Defence decision to replace the complex British radar set which Sea Wolf uses to track its target with a Dutch system called the VM40.

The Navy wanted a radar that could cope more efficiently with the threat to ships from low, sea-skimming enemy missiles.

Another reason was that the Navy were seeking a smaller and lighter system than the existing one. At present Sea Wolf is fitted to the new Type 22 frigates and to a number of Leander class frigates.

Ideally, however, the Navy would like to squeeze it on to a number of other warships as well, like Type 42 destroyers and even the new Invincible class of aircraft carriers.

British Aerospace, who make Sea Wolf, are also interested in the Dutch radar system because a smaller, lighter system has a better chance of winning export orders from smaller navies.

Sea Wolf, which proved itself capable of hitting a shell in the sky during three years of trials, has no obvious competitor as a so-called "point defence" missile system for ships; given the right radar it could be a powerful attraction for overseas customers.

Marconi Radar Systems, who make Sea Wolf's radar, admit to being slow in perceiving the Navy's requirement. With the

threat of being ousted from the Sea Wolf market, Marconi have fought back by designing a number of other warships as well as the new Invincible class of aircraft carriers.

They claim it is not only as cheap as the Dutch VM40, but is lighter.

A naval weapons projects board met yesterday to consider the Marconi case after a week of meetings and telephone calls between the ministry and the company's Chelmsford office.

Marconi say that if they lose the work on Sea Wolf to Holland, their Chelmsford works would have to close, with the loss of 700 jobs.

Mr Norman St John Stevas, the member for Chelmsford, is among MPs trying to persuade the Ministry of Defence to drop the Dutch option in favour of the all-British alternative.

Jury released in 'handless corpse' trial

The Crown yesterday completed its case for the "handless corpse" trial at Lancaster Castle.

The jury, which has heard evidence from more than 150 witnesses, was released until Monday.

The case involves charges against 12 people after the handless body of Mr Marty Johnson, a New Zealand drug dealer, was found in a water-filled quarry in Lancashire in October, 1979.

Mr Worcester's request to conduct a follow-up survey was rejected by the department. His action, Mr Worcester says, led to a complaint at the highest level. In at least one case, the deputy chairman of a leading company saw the permanent secretary of the department in which he was most interested.

men saved in fire

thirteen men were rescued from their quarters last night after a fire at RAF station, which, yesterday when fire

out in a storeroom.

ivil Service chief to be asked to lift ban on pollsters

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Ian Bannister, Head of Home Civil Service, will be asked tonight to lift his ban on pollsters questioning civil servants, as they are able to do in the mid-

outlines his grievance against the Civil Service Department in a paper to be presented to a conference of the Royal Institute of Public Administration at Sussex University.

In 1975 some industrial clients asked Mr Worcester to compile a survey of the attitude of senior civil servants towards business. This was given permission by Sir Douglas Allen, now

Lord Croham, the then Head of the Home Civil Service.

Mr Worcester interviewed Lord Croham in 1976 as part of his sample. Mr Worcester says: "He agreed that he thought it would be a good idea to carry out the study on a periodic basis, possibly every two years. Unfortunately this conversation was not minuted. By 1978 Sir Douglas Allen had

retired."

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After the fighting, hunger and disorder

Wrecked Chad capital years for peace and effective government

From Ian Murray
N'djamena, April 9

The bullets have stopped but the real battle for control of the shattered capital of Chad is now being fought. It is a battle between anarchy and the desire for peace rather than a fight between rival groups.

Hate, fear and hopelessness bear down on N'djamena as the sun. The heat at the end of the dry season is intense and at the same time discontent is coming to the boil.

Only two things are holding back another murderous outbreak of the fighting which has already all but destroyed the fragile Chadian nation and ruined its even weaker economy. One of these is the continued, deeply resented Libyan presence in the country. But more important is the heartfelt desire of so large a proportion of the people to have done with war—at least for the moment.

It is enough to walk down any street in the city to understand why. The rival warring factions were not equipped with heavy arms and they carved their way through the town with bullets. The cartridge cases are tarnished now and scum into the grey sand that is everywhere. But the pits and crumpling red brick masonry are still bleeding their dust into the streets.

Still bleeding, too, are the wounds of 200 or so of the combatants who fought in the battle of N'djamena. These wounded veterans, mainly youngsters, lie in the central hospital in conditions which offend the senses and turn the stomach. Many are as twisted and broken as the tortured girders of the wrecked office blocks and shopping arcades.

Each blistering hot day that dawn is another survival test for the tens of thousands of people who continue to exist in the wreck of the city. There is no water or electricity, except at night in some of the better areas. There is no paid work. There is almost no money.

Almost every banknote remaining is held together with Sellotape and forgeries are commonplace. The civil service has not been paid for months and little or no work is being done. The police have had no money since last December and are merely being issued with free rice.

As a precaution, the Government is trying to disarm the many khaki-clad soldiers, who form so large a part of the visible population. All but the military policemen in their red berets are forbidden to carry guns. The rest are issued with a vicious sheath knife to give them the necessary authority. The mere fact of putting on a uniform however, turns even young teenagers into thugs. They stop strangers in the street and accuse them of



President Ouéddei: Seen as a useful go-between.

espionage. They threaten and bully. They do not loot because there is nothing left to loot.

On the positive side it is obvious that the market place is resuming business as usual. Fresh food is available on the stalls, although little money exists to buy it. The abattoir is starting work again and the Scheherazade cinema has just reopened, showing a film called *The Spy*. The mud walls of the African quarter have absorbed and hidden the bullets leaving few scars.

A number of schools have reopened with early morning courses in French, English and maths, but most of the teachers are still not back at work because they are not being paid.

Here and there a few workers scuffle around the rubble trying to find whole bricks to start rebuilding. A very few lorries have started clearing the debris from the many government buildings which have been totally wrecked.

But President Goukouni Ouéddei, shut off from the city in his palace by barbed wire on

one side and the River Chaddi on the other must be aware that the capital city has become a self-contained state. It rules little but itself and that badly. In fact, it is the Libyans who very discreetly maintain whatever control there is. They are active more obviously in the north and east of the country where there is still skirmishing with some rebels.

Only the south of the country is governed at all by Chadians. Under its leader, Colonel Kamougue, the south has all but declared independence, collecting its own taxes, organizing its own militia and running some social services.

President Ouéddei was nevertheless given a rapturous welcome in the south last month, quite simply because he represented a hope for unity and the peace that would go with it. Heartened by this, he made a sudden tour this week of the central area. He is widely criticised for his complete lack of firm government, but accepted as a compromise leader acting as a go-between of the different factions.

The most obvious danger to the uneasy peace is the continued popularity of the rebel army of the north which was eventually ousted from N'djamena last December.

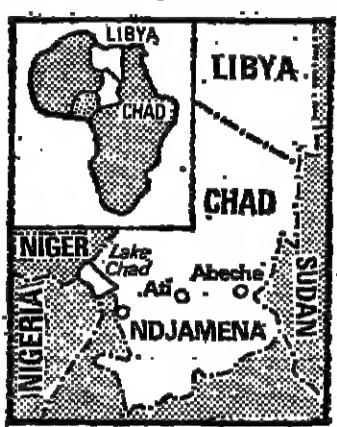
He is in Sudan and many of his supporters are living as refugees there and in other neighbouring countries or are still hiding their arms inside Chad itself. This adds to the overall mood of suspicion and creates the possibility that Libyans might be used in hot pursuit raids over Chad's borders.

The refugees are slow to return because there is so little to go back for and so much still to fear. At Kousséri in Cameroon, just across the river from N'djamena there is a camp of 60,000 of them, living off the world's charity and a good deal of thieving. A very few are taking some ferries back to Chad with their beds and belongings but many prefer to stay at the camp to collect free food.

Charity is helping to keep famine out of the troubled picture. But mutual suspicion, long-standing hatred and lack of direction from the top pose more violent problems than empty stomachs.

Summit cancelled: A meeting of seven African presidents, called for tomorrow in Lagos has suddenly been cancelled without any official reason being given (Our Lagos Correspondent writes).

The presidents, all members of the Organization of African Unity steering committee on Chad, were to have discussed the appointment of an African peacekeeping force to replace the Libyan Army in Chad.



Owen attack on Thatcher 'weakness'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

In a speech attacking Mrs Thatcher's "weak response" over Poland, Dr David Owen last night challenged her and the rest of the NATO Governments to threaten to freeze existing contracts with the Soviet Union as the one sanction which might stay the Kremlin's hand.

"High technology is the one area in which the West can really hurt the Soviet Union. It is the one sanction which if they really believed we would apply it would make the Soviet leadership think hard about their policy at a Social Democrats' public meeting in Hammersmith, west London.

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary in the last Labour Government, said that condemnatory speeches had no influence on the Soviet Union. Nor would withdrawing diplomats have any impact or a resumption of the arms race "if anything, it will delight the generals".

Dr Owen insisted that no leader, in either East or West, had the right to put their national security at risk by abandoning arms control negotiations. "We are debating ourselves if we believe that this is the right response to Soviet interference in Poland," he said.

Over Iran and Afghanistan, Dr Owen contended the West had "shown itself incapable of facing up to the economic decisions that are a real sanction".

He said: "One of the worst offenders in this was the present Government of this country who for all their rhetoric when it came to action showed themselves to be quite unable to deliver".

Dr Owen acknowledged that the reason was that these sanctions hurt people in the West as well. The issues could not be shirked. Governments should seek to compensate firms and protect the jobs of their people affected by sanctions.

Man in the News

Polish hardliner finds favour in Soviet eyes

From Tim Garton-Ash
Berlin, April 9

Mr Stefan Olszowski, leader of the Polish delegation to the Czechoslovak party congress, is at 49 a mere strapping by Soviet standards. He is none the less likely to have found favour in Mr Brezhnev's eyes in Prague. Indeed, he is a favourite for the position of Polish Husak in the event of a Soviet intervention.

Since his return to the Politbureau last August, Mr Olszowski has emerged as a most powerful advocate of economic reforming line against Solidarity. In December he further strengthened his hand by taking overall control of the Polish mass media. There has subsequently been a clamp-down on the press, television and radio.

Three weeks ago, he led the faction in the Politbureau which argued for the declaration of a national state of emergency in the wake of police violence in Bydgoszcz. Initially outvoted by the party leader, Mr Stanislaw Kanon, only a threat of resignation from General Jurczak, the Prime Minister, prevented the Politbureau from going ahead with this plan, which would have provoked a general strike.

Mr Olszowski, in return, offered to resign after the ban on Solidarity was lifted, but this was violently criticized at the last tumultuous plenary session of the Communist Party Central Committee. The fact that his offer was refused, along with those of his political allies, Mr Tadeusz Grabski and Mr Roman Ney, suggests that he still enjoys strong support from the entrenched party apparatus.

Strangely enough, Mr Olszowski was long celebrated by Western observers as a "reformer" and even as a "liberal". This reputation was established through his tactical alliance with representatives of the

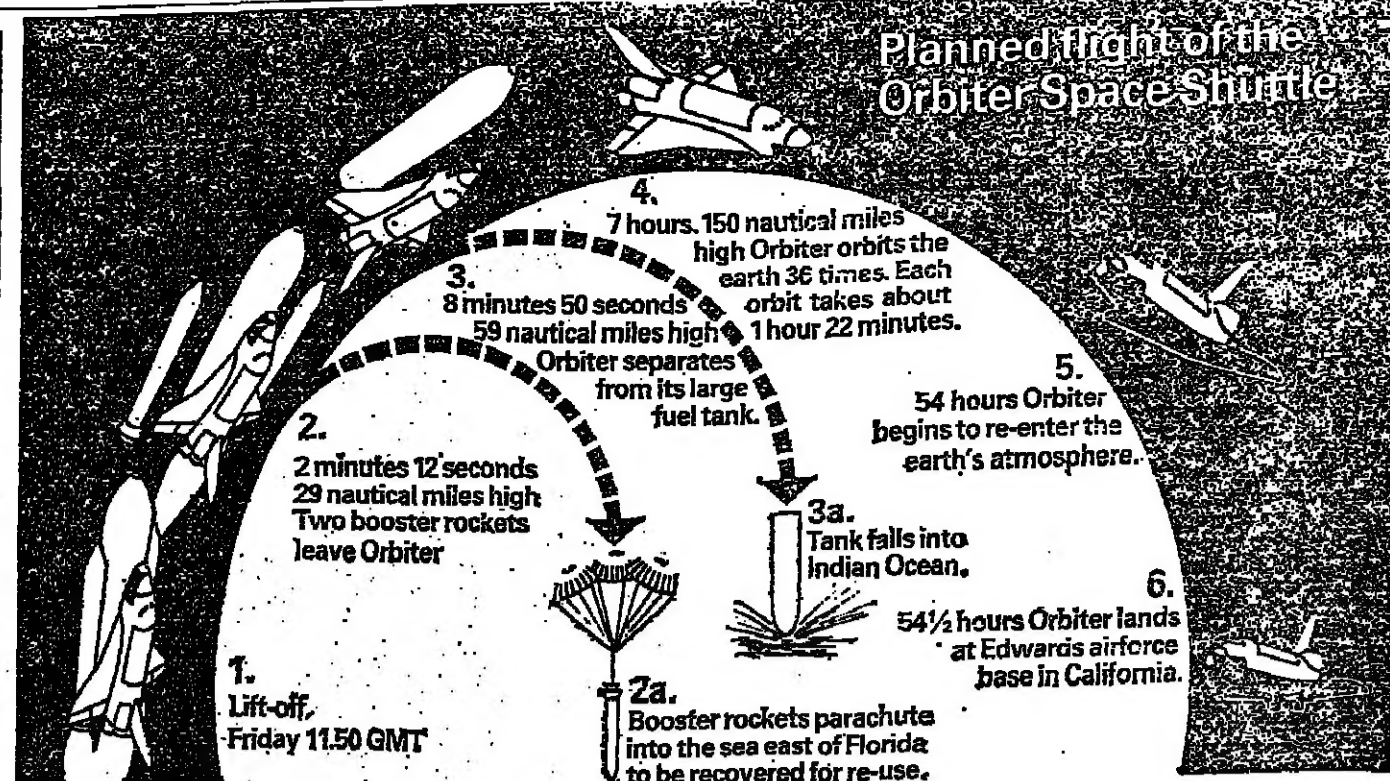
liberal intelligentsia criticizing Mr Gierek's policies in the late 1970s. As a result of this well justified criticism, he was eased out of the Politbureau at the eighth party congress in February, 1980. He was then sent as Ambassador to East Berlin, an obvious demotion for a former foreign minister.

Yet there is actually no contradiction between Mr Olszowski's advocacy of economic reform and his political conservatism. He is perhaps best described as an authoritarian technocrat. He would like to see continued rapid modernization of the Western technology and credits, but with the minimum of political liberalization. Economic decentralization should not be accompanied by the devolution of political power. The reins should be returned firmly to the hands of a strong, highly centralized Leninist party.

Surveys close to Mr Olszowski before August say that he backs back to the revolutionary line of the early 1950s when he was a high official of the Stalinist Polish Youth Union. He is famously hostile to the Catholic Church and played a leading role in purging the mass media of "Zionist elements" in 1968.

On present form, Mr Olszowski's last slim hopes of a Leninist restoration in the Politbureau are fading. He is likely to be extinguished at the party congress, which Mr Kanon has promised will be held before July 20. He must therefore be looking elsewhere for his support. The Kremlin is clearly horrified at the prospect of a reformist party congress electing a liberal Politbureau, as they were with Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Mr Olszowski will be ill-advised to seek a job which might be nearer to that of a Quisling than to that of a Polish Husak or Kadar. But then, Mr Olszowski may be ill advised.



Shuttle countdown to the reusable space age

From Michael Leapman
Cape Canaveral, April 9

If the launch of the space shuttle goes according to plan, this is what will be happening in the hours leading to lift off and in the early stages of the mission.

Shortly before midnight tonight, the liquid hydrogen and oxygen which provide power for the thrust into space will start to be fed into the fuel tank. When that is finished, a two-hour hold is built into the countdown; but two important preparations take place during this period of "no-time".

Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen will get up at 2 am and receive a weather briefing from the Mission Control Centre at Houston, Texas. If it is favourable—which looks likely at the moment—they start getting into the pressure suits which they keep on for the first three and a half hours of the flight; in case a quick escape is called for.

After that they wear ordinary casual clothes until donning the suits again for re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr John Yardley, associate administrator at the National Aeronautics and Space Admini-

stration, said this afternoon that the most dangerous parts of the flight would be 60 seconds after lift-off and at re-entry into the atmosphere on Sunday, a "new area" of space technology about which little was known.

Towards the end of the hold period—at about 4 am—Commander Young and Captain Crippen climb into the cabin. They hook themselves to their life support and communications systems. The hatch of their compartment is closed and they are sealed in.

Now the pace quickens. Two important safety measures are tested. First, a check is made of emergency procedures that come into play if the mission has to be aborted, then another check to confirm that the launch can be halted at any stage if things look wrong.

At 6 am another 20-minute hold begins. The computers are programmed with the final launch procedures which are almost completely under their control. Soon afterwards the engines are started on the "chase" aircraft, which will take off 10 minutes before the shuttle to monitor its ascent.

A final 10-minute hold begins

at 6.30 am. At this point the countdown can be held for up to 65 minutes if the weather looks temporarily unsuitable. When this hold ends, computers take over nearly all launching functions, although human intervention is still possible if necessary.

At seven minutes before lift-off the access arm taking the crew to and from the control station is retracted from the craft. It can, however, be put back within half a minute.

Three and a half minutes later the ground power supply to the craft is cut off. With five seconds to go, the final "Let's Go" command is given by the ground computers and 12 seconds later the three engines are ignited separately.

Within three seconds they will develop 90 per cent thrust and at this point the booster rockets are ignited, the bolts holding the shuttle to its pad stars blow away by explosives and the craft lifts into the air. Sprays of water help to absorb the noise, preventing it from damaging any of the systems.

Eight minutes 50 seconds later the large cigar-shaped fuel doors of the cargo bay.

Now the craft relies for manoeuvring power on chemical fuels of its own. By now it would be too late for it to return to the space centre, in the event of trouble. It would have to make a complete orbit of the Earth and land in New Mexico or Spain.

After 1hr 20min, all being well, the craft will have completed its first orbit and be 173 miles above the Earth. Soon the crew will begin the tests that are the purpose of the flight, starting with the cooling systems fixed to the doors of the cargo bay.

The astronauts eat their first space meal at about noon and go to sleep at 8 pm after an 18-hour day. On Sunday, shortly before 10 am, California Time (7 pm British Summer Time) they reenter the atmosphere, having completed the 37 orbits.

This will be the most perilous part of the flight, providing the first test of the heat resistant tiles that are supposed to prevent the shuttle and its occupants from being consumed in fire.

Having survived that, the astronauts steer the craft to its landing on a dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base, about 120 miles north-east of Los Angeles.



A masked security chief welcoming Captain Robert Crippen, the astronaut, to Patrick Air Force Base yesterday.

Herr Schmidt rejects criticism of détente

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, April 9

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor today, could exonerate the situation in Poland. "Anything from outside, whether from East or West, which could heat up the situation is dangerous," he said.

He added a warning that any attempt to use force in Poland "could change the world" and many of West Germany's present policies besides. The West could only continue giving Poland economic aid "if a climate of cooperation is maintained in Europe".

The Chancellor found himself again defending the West German position on two fronts: against misunderstandings and a new tendency to toughness in the United States, and against increasing dissent from left-wingers in his own party.

He rejected any effort by the West to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union—a reference to electoral claims by present American leaders which themselves to be asked what the Soviet armaments would have looked like in cold-war conditions.

"I reply: whoever neglects their efforts to preserve the military balance during periods of détente—which incidentally the Federal Government has never done—has not understood the compelling interaction between military balance and East-West cooperation."

In his annual report on the state of the nation, Herr Schmidt issued a veiled warning to the United States leaders against making remarks which could exacerbate the situation in Poland. "Anything from outside, whether from East or West, which could heat up the situation is dangerous," he said.

He added a warning that any attempt to use force in Poland "could change the world" and many of West Germany's present policies besides. The West could only continue giving Poland economic aid "if a climate of cooperation is maintained in Europe".

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"I reply: whoever neglects their efforts to preserve the military balance during periods of détente—which incidentally the Federal Government has never done—has not understood the compelling interaction between military balance and East-West cooperation."

Pressure on Warsaw is kept up

By a Special Correspondent

Despite the formal ending of the Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in Poland, Soviet ground forces and military communications networks—set up during the practice operations—remain intact throughout the country.

Diplomats in Warsaw see little reason for thinking that Mr Brezhnev's comparatively mild speech in Prague means that the threat of invasion has been lifted; indeed, there is a strong suspicion that the Russian will never permit the forthcoming party congress in Poland to take place.

A source in Warsaw said: "Whatever Mr Brezhnev says, the party congress is supposed to be held by secret ballot and this turns the communist principle of democratic centralism" on its head.

Russian-controlled states take their orders from the top down and the ones are trying to overturn this whole process. How can the Soviets allow it to happen?"

There is considerable discussion in Warsaw as to how violent the country might become in the event of an invasion. The Polish armed forces are still expected to provide the front line against the Poles if civil conflict precedes an invasion. Soviet intervention would then take place to "assist" the Polish state forces.

El Salvador massacre The rising death toll starts to worry US

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 9

American officials are deeply disturbed at the massacre of at least 20 people in Soyapango, near San Salvador, apparently by security forces, on Tuesday. Representatives of the American Embassy have investigated and confirm news reports that it was an act of gratuitous violence by the security forces, probably a group called the Treasury Police.

This organization, originally customs police, is 500 or 600 strong and has carried out a large number of killings. The American Government fears that unless the civilian military junta in El Salvador can bring the Treasury Police and other groups under control, and stop these killings, it will become impossible to restore the support of American public opinion and Congress.

The State Department issued a statement this morning deploring "violence from left and right that threatens all hope of progress". Mr James Cheek, Deputy Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, said in an interview published today that there appeared to be a deliberate policy of assassination by both left and right in El Salvador to destabilize the regime.

He said that there were now about 30 assassinations a week, and added: "These incidents are beginning to reflect a pattern, or the emergence of a new strategy by the left. This kind of activity must be stopped now. Like the first steps of a climb."

According to the El Salvador Government, 28 more people were killed on Wednesday, mostly by leftist insurgents. Tuesday's massacre at Soyapango resulted in the death of between 20 and 30 people, the security forces claim that they were fired on by terrorists and that all the dead were killed in the gun battle that ensued.

The massacre has been extensively covered on American television and in the newspapers. At least six of the bodies were found with their

Nine rivals to fight M Giscard at polls

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 9

There will be 10 candidates in the presidential election April 26, M Roger Frey, president of the Constituent Council, announced this afternoon. In addition to the leading contenders, M Giscard d'Estaing, M Jacques Chirac, M François Mitterrand and Georges Marchais, six other candidates succeeded in obtaining the 500 required signatures of sponsors from at least 50 departments in the country. This is no surprise.

The six "little" candidates are: M Michel Debré, orthodox Gaullist; Mme A France Garaud, the independent anti-communist; M M Crépau, the left wing leader; Mme Huguette B ardeau, the candidate of leftist PSU; Mme A Laguerre, representing Trotskyist Louise Olivier M. Brice Lalonde, leader of ecologists.

Neither M Jean-Marie Pen, the leader of the ex-right-wing National Front M Michel Jobert, leader of the independent left-of-Movement of Democrats, in the end succeeded in obtaining the necessary number of sponsors. There is a call of appeal to the Constituent Council until midnight Saturday against the list of those who are not on it. But it is highly unlikely there will be any successful appeals.

The publication of the tomorrow in the *Jeune République* marks the beginning of the campaign for an amiable fiction, since M Giscard d'Estaing began his campaign a month ago, M Debré started off last night.

But on Monday, the campaign also begins of M Giscard d'Estaing. Each of the ten candidates is expected to have a vision and two on the But all political observations emphasize that these staid performances have less impact than the d interviews which have taken place almost no for weeks.

After Mrs Thatcher's visit to Brussels, which should be a valuable asset to his campaign, M Giscard d'E has received support from a quite concrete fashion. He has received support from the Chancellor with his F German loan. This gives a substance to the political investment and research the President submitted press yesterday.

Surprise is expressed some newspapers today. It is believed by the den with the Chancellor they met in Alsace in March, and completed M Raymond Barre, the Minister, visited Bonn week should have announced from his headquarters, and not from Elysee Palace.

Certainly the announcement of the loan was meant to the ground from under the of M Giscard and M Mitterrand, who have both promise stimulate investments with such precise financing to for it.

Foreign Report, p 6

From Douglas Aitken
Melbourne, April 9

The small town of Larrabee, on the coast of New South Wales 260 miles north of Sydney, may have been the scene of the first serious nuclear accident in Australia.

While politicians continue to deny that there is any danger, doctors in the town maintain that up to 10 people have been treated for symptoms of radiation poisoning after a lorry carrying toxic chemicals overturned outside the town on December 4.

Mr Peter Gillespie, an officer from the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, has pronounced the radioactive containers safe, but there seems to be considerable confusion as people claiming to be witnesses have said that the Commission officials told police they were concerned about the possible significance of the mishap.

Miss Roslyn Taylor, a reporter with a local television station, went to the scene shortly after the accident happened and maintains that representatives of the Commission told the police that the drums, containing americium 241 and

caesium 137, had to be moved from the road urgently before the sun melted their protective coat of paraffin wax.

Other allegations about the accident, so far unsubstantiated, include a witness who allegedly saw a glass bottle from a container clearly marked "radioactive material, lethal if absorbed through the skin" shattered and spill freely around the crash site, and that two tonnes of Chinese food was carried on the lorry with pesticide and radioactive matter and some of it was shipped to Brisbane where it was distributed to restaurants.

Perhaps the most alarming aspect of the accident is the claim made by Miss Taylor, aged 22, about her health. She says that within hours of arriving at the crash scene, on the Pacific Highway, the main thoroughfare between Sydney and Brisbane, she developed a cough, and a sore throat and felt sick. She says she also suffers, four months later, from headaches.

Yesterday, as she stood on the crash site, Miss Taylor said: "I remember it had been raining but there was a kind of slushy wet stuff all over the road. There were two police-

مكتبة الأصل

Ottawa MPs reach compromise on constitution dispute

From John Best
Ottawa, April 9

The long, bitter confrontation over constitutional reform ended in Canada's House of Commons. An all-party agreement worked out yesterday will allow the House to vote on the plan to Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, to bring home the constitution to Britain, but only after the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled on its legality.

As a result of the accord the House today was able to take a vote on the constitution in nearly eight weeks, which is how long the final stages of the debate on the Trudeau plan have been going.

In the last two weeks the opposition mounted a blockade which prevented the Liberal Government motion coming to a vote.

In return for lifting their blockade the Tories got the government's commitment not to push the measure through until the Supreme Court has given its decision. The court is scheduled to hear arguments on April 28 and it is expected to make a ruling within a month.

The Tories and eight of the 10 provincial premiers have agreed to support the unilateral federal move, unconstitutional in that it involves provincial rights and privileges.

The plan involves asking the British Parliament to relinquish the Act of 1867 after enacting an amending formula and a bill of rights.

The provinces feel they

should have a say on both these points.

Before agreeing to end their blockade the Conservatives also got Mr. Trudeau's commitment to meet the eight dissenting premiers to try to plan an agreed approach to Westminster.

The timing of the meeting will have to be worked out. It will probably be after a meeting which the eight have planned for next Thursday, when they hope to reach final agreement on the Trudeau plan.

The chances that a meeting of premiers will accomplish anything worthwhile are not strong. Previous meetings have usually been fruitless.

Many of the premiers oppose Mr. Trudeau's idea of asking Westminster to legislate the bill of rights and some do not think matters should be enshrined in the constitution, but should be left to the legislatures.

The parliamentary timetable agreed on yesterday provides for a further three-day debate on the patriation motion, starting on April 21 and during which amendments will be disposed of.

Then the whole issue will be shelved until the Supreme Court has spoken. After that there will be a two-day wind-up debate followed by a vote on the entire package.

If the court ruling goes against the Government, however, the package in its present form presumably will die and there will be no wind-up debate.

Extended sitting hours and time limitations on speeches will apply at both stages.

Washington Commentary

Reagan absence demonstrates a new style

The awkward questions about who was running the American Government in the hours after President Reagan was shot, and who is running it now, have subsided for the moment. Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defense, are both in Europe and it would be tactless to rake over the ashes of their past discord while they are away.

The questions can be left safely to the press and the Democrats and to various partisan members of the Government: when Mr. Haig and Mr. Weinberger have returned, we will hear of more about it.

The question of the President's own competence is the subject of some rather squeamish speculation now, and that, too, will be much discussed as soon as he is out of hospital.

It is not that anyone thinks that Mr. Reagan's mental processes have been affected by his ordeal, or that he will be any less effective, or that he will not make a full recovery. People wonder who is minding the ship during his absence, and how far he can control events from his sick bed.

Mr. Reagan has been kept secluded for much longer than his doctors and assistants led us to expect—a failure that reflects on their judgment, not his. Their loss of credibility will only become serious if the President is still in hospital a week from now.

In the meantime, the executive branch of the United States Government has continued to function as it did before. Mr. Reagan's absence demonstrates how efficiently the Administration was set up to conform to his practice. He is not an interfering Chief Executive, like Jimmy Carter or Lyndon Johnson. He prefers to leave his ministers to their own devices, or even from a flying command post, a converted Boeing 707 that came into use during Mr. Carter's presidency.

President Carter once tried it out: as an exercise, the President read everything, decided everything, and then moved to the next problem. He could never see the wood for the trees.

Mr. Reagan prefers to lay down the lines his ministers should follow and to ensure that Congress has the support they need. Therefore, things can proceed normally without



Mr. Alexander Haig (left) in Madrid and Mr. Caspar Weinberger in Rome

him, for a time at least. In ordinary times, his counsel, Mr. Edwin Meese, and his Chief of Staff, Mr. James Baker, ensure that the Government runs smoothly, that everything the President has to do personally is done, and that, too, continues.

One particular question that came up in the aftermath of the shooting of the President was the disposal of the strategic forces—was easily answered. In a national emergency, this control is taken over directly by the President, either from the White House, from the Pentagon, from secret bases due out of the Appalachian mountains, or even from a flying command post, a converted Boeing 707 that came into use during Mr. Carter's presidency.

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On March 30, of course, he was totally incapacitated. The elaborate means of communication that keep him in constant touch with the armed forces all over the world (or could do so, if needed) were at the disposal of Vice-President Bush, flying back from Texas this aircraft is equipped with secure telephones, and were at the disposal of the Secretaries of State and Defense in the White House itself.

Under a directive issued by Mr. Reagan, the Vice-President was in command of the strategic forces while Mr. Reagan was unconscious, but the actual command was exercised by Mr. Weinberger, who came next in line under the directive, until Mr. Bush reached the White House that evening.

The romance that attaches to the bagman who follows the President around when he leaves the White House or his personal aircraft, carrying the special codes, is rather misplaced. He would come into his own only if Russian missiles appeared on the radar screens while the President was campaigning in some dreary

suburb, far from the White House and Air Force One.

He might then give his orders for Armageddon over the car radio. It is not a very plausible hypothesis. The usual assumption is that the President will have sufficient warning of a crisis to reach a secure command post, and the Carter exercise demonstrated that the machinery works.

There was no hiatus in the exercise of political authority over the strategic forces. There is, however, a real hiatus that is seriously worrying the Administration: Mr. Reagan cannot lead the battle for the budget and the tax cuts from hospital.

The Democrats in the House of Representatives are already regrouping their forces and have produced a budget of their own. The Vice-President, the Director of the Budget, Mr. David Stockman, and other officials are attacking the Democrats' positions valiantly, but their commander's absence is already making itself felt. This crucial domestic political sense, no one can replace the President.

Syria-Jordan trade survives bitter feud

From Christopher Walker
Amman, April 9

The Jordanian-Syrian land transport company this week increased its fleet by 100 heavy lorries. At the same time, officials from Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia were working on plans to reconstruct the Hajjah desert railway from Damascus to Medina.

Neither move would be remarkable were it not for the fact that King Hussein of Jordan and Hafez Assad of Syria, and locked in one of the bitterest and most personal feuds ever to divide their two countries, which only a few years ago were contemplating integration under the ambitious slogan: "One army, one people, one land."

Although the two neighbouring Arab armies have withdrawn from the border positions which they took up at the end of 1980, nothing has happened to alter the root causes of a dispute which still threatens a further violent split in the Arab world.

One Western diplomat said: "The severity of the insults, the extent of the propaganda and Syria's deliberate campaign of subversion against Jordan have made this one of the most serious inter-Arab quarrels in recent years. At present, there is no sign of how it is going to be resolved."

A recent boost in the power of Syria's main television transmitter has brought the hostile claims against King Hussein into the centre of Amman. In turn, the Jordanians have begun to hit back with a string of allegations against the Syrian regime, mostly put out through the official Jordan news agency.

In addition to the road and most of the blame on Syria for prompting the breakdown in relations. But the hostility has revived unhappy Jordanian memories of past disputes, particularly an abortive Syrian invasion in 1970, timed to coincide with King Hussein's move against militant Palestinians.

Three main reasons are cited by Syria for the worsening feud: alleged Jordanian training

of members of the extremist Muslim Brotherhood; secret plans by King Hussein to enter the Middle East peace negotiations on behalf of the Palestinians; and resentment at Jordan's strong support for Iraq in its continuing war with Iran.

The Jordanian monarch has denied the first accusation and his denials are supported by Western intelligence assessments. Although the Brotherhood has a legalised headquarters in the commercial centre of Amman, no evidence has come to light that its members are receiving arms, training, or finance from the Government.

In February, Syrian-Jordanian relations deteriorated further after the unexplained kidnapping of a Jordanian Charge d'Affaires in Beirut. Soon afterwards a Syrian "hit team" of seven men was captured. They admitted in a lengthy televised interview, to have been sent from Damascus to assassinate Mr. Mudar Badran, the Jordanian Prime Minister.

As a result, Jordanian embassies throughout the world have been placed on alert for possible Syrian-inspired raids, and Jordan has boosted its own propaganda attacks against leading members of Syria's Alawite regime, particularly against Mr. Rifaat Assad, the brother of the President and commander of the country's crack army unit.

Against this violent background, trade links between the two former Arab allies have so far survived remarkably intact. The land border remains open, although searches are more rigorous, and many joint companies established during the heady period of proposed integration are still thriving.

In addition to the road and rail ventures, these include a joint maritime company with its headquarters in the Syrian port of Latakia and the Amman-based Syrian-Jordanian Bank.

Arab observers claim that the continuation of the joint commercial ventures is a welcome indication of a new maturity in the Arab world, allowing economic ties to survive political upheavals.

Relief brought to victims of Lebanese fighting

From Tewfik Mishlawi
Beirut, April 9

After eight days of fierce fighting in Beirut and the Christian town of Zahle, government and international Red Cross officials today embarked on an aid and relief campaign, taking advantage of a fragile ceasefire ordered by President Sarkis yesterday.

A Red Cross convoy of about 11 vehicles moved into Zahle, scene of large-scale fighting since Tuesday last week, and medical teams began to evacuate dozens of wounded men, women and children.

A few Syrian tanks and artillery shells fell onto the surrounding hills, where Christian fighting militia were reported to have their hideouts. Food and water were also supplied to the town's population of about 200,000.

Serious social problems began to appear in the Christian-controlled sector of Beirut and the suburbs which have been affected by the fighting. The voice of Lebanon radio, the mouthpiece of the right-wing Phalange party, broadcast warnings against the boarding of food and profiteering. Several shops have been closed because their owners are reported to have overcharged.

Emergency "people's committees" have been set up by the party to combat hoarding and black marketeering. The committees also helped in repairing public utilities damaged during the battles between Syrian troops of the Arab peacekeeping force and Lebanese Christian militias.

But few Lebanese expect the truce to last. Most newspapers said today that the next 48 hours were crucial.

Under the terms of the ceasefire Lebanese internal security forces (police and gendarmes) took over control of a main road on the outskirts of Zahle, while Syrian troops retained their hold on the international roads in the Bekaa valley, which Syria regards as strategically important for its security against Israel.

The Syrians also held their positions on most of the surrounding hills, and insisted that long-term security measures would have to be negotiated after the ceasefire is stabilised.

Syria, which has about 23,000 men in Lebanon by authorization of the Arab League and with the approval of the Lebanese Government, is demanding the withdrawal of all the Christian militias from Zahle and the deployment of a carefully selected Lebanese Army contingent under Syrian command.

Christian leaders who rejected this condition demanded today that either all the Syrian forces in Lebanon should be made accountable directly to the United Nations Security Council or the world organization should send more troops to take over peacekeeping duties throughout Lebanon.

The United Nations already has 6,000 troops in southern Lebanon as a buffer between Palestinian and Lebanese leftist militias on the one hand, and Israeli-backed Christians on the other.

Years for 7 hunger strikers

Our Own Correspondent
West Germany, April 9

Nine German's 11 Land ministers today agreed to give in to the demands of 27 convicted or alleged terrorists on hunger strike in 1, even though several are to death.

The prisoners, some of whom have been refusing food for a week and a half weeks, want to go together in groups of 15. At present they are in various prisons throughout the country.

In a hastily-called meeting today the Land justice ministers, who are responsible for the prisoners, decided to remain in refusing their demand, give in, they said, would strengthen terrorist organisations.

Herr Jürgen Schmude, the federal Justice Minister, said tonight that several of the hunger strikers could die at a time. Some had been close to death for a week; but he did not say how many were in danger.

The strike began early in 1976 with more than 100 men, but many stopped others joined in later.

Spokesman for the federal Justice Ministry said "some" strikers less than 10—were force-fed. Several were hospitalised. By law the decision to force-feed rests with doctors in charge and not on doctors appear to be using it.

Applying to pressure fromervative politicians, Dr. Bourmiser, chairman of a local association, said that doctor can be made to force a patient. He advocated British method of offering and drink at every meal and leaving it up to the patient to decide whether to

Madrid talks to start on US bases

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, April 9

Mr. Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said at the end of talks here with Spanish political leaders that two countries had decided to begin negotiations almost immediately on a new treaty covering United States bases in Spain originally signed in 1953.

Mr. Haig emphasized at a press conference after a busy day during which he saw King Juan Carlos, Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the opposition Socialist leader, that the new agreement would recognize "the changed circumstances for the two countries and especially the establishment of a democratic regime in Spain."

The old treaty of friendship and cooperation, signed by Washington with the Franco regime, expires in September. It was last renewed in 1976, almost a year before the holding of Spain's first democratic elections. The Spanish Government originally granted put Spain at a disadvantage in terms of its sovereignty.

Starting negotiations on a new bilateral treaty gives the Spanish Government the chance to prepare its strategy for making an application to join Nato, now expected here before the year is out, so that Spain can become a member before the next general elections which must be held at the latest in early 1983.

No one expected the Madrid Government to announce its decision to apply for Nato membership on the occasion of the Haig visit but it now seems clear the course has been set.

Sixty nations seek EEC food aid

From Michael Hornsby
Luxembourg, April 9

The EEC and 60 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries opened their annual ministerial meeting here today amid growing demands from the developing world for help in meeting its food needs.

The ACP countries have been pressing for long-term contracts for the supply of food from the EEC's surplus, especially subsidised prices which could be paid for in local currencies so as to lessen the drain on foreign exchange reserves.

The demand is particularly strong from the African countries, nearly all of which are suffering severe food deficits. Their cereal imports have doubled in the last 10 years, and food production a head has fallen by 1.4 per cent annually because of rapid population growth.

The ACP countries have invoked the example of the EEC's food assistance to Poland which has been made available at 15 per cent below world market prices with the aid of export subsidies paid for out of the Community budget.

The EEC argues, however, that Poland is a special case because of its political and

strategic importance. The ACP countries, it is pointed out, already receive quantities of emergency food aid free of charge, and the EEC says commercial terms must apply to non-emergency supplies.

The normal procedure is for food surpluses to be exported with subsidies to bring the price down to the usually lower world level. The most the EEC is prepared to offer is that these subsidies should be fixed for a year in advance so as to give the ACP group a guarantee of stable import prices.

Speaking for the group Mr. Samuel Insulata, of Guinea, said this fell far short of the developing countries' needs. "We are facing a crisis in the cost of our food supplies parallel to the crisis in our energy supplies. We must have payment assistance," he told the conference.

Among those EEC countries most strongly opposed to offering the ACP group food at less than world market prices is Britain, represented at the conference here by Mr. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

The British argue that long-term export contracts at special rates would stimulate even greater over-production by Europe's farmers, adding to the

already disproportionate weight of agricultural expenditure in the EEC's budget.

A more general argument deployed by the EEC is that its food surpluses are no longer as large as they once were. Long-term export commitments therefore make it more difficult for the Community to respond with emergency aid in times of famine, flood or other natural disasters.

Refugee aid: The international conference on assistance to refugees in Africa has received pledges in its first day totalling \$485m (£220m), with no less than \$285m from the United States alone, for this year and next. (Alan McGregor writes from Geneva.) United Nations officials say further contributions of between \$200m and \$300m are expected to be announced tomorrow in the second and final day of the conference.

Of the 131 countries invited, 85 are represented, half of them at ministerial level. The most prominent absentee are the Eastern European states.

The priority aim was \$500m for emergency relief over 18 months to two years, with a similar sum for continuing assistance in the ensuing three years.

Mr Peres lists key men in a Labour Cabinet

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, April 9

Mr Shimon Peres today named the men he intends to appoint to key offices in his government if the Labour Alignment wins the national elections on June 30.

Mr Abba Eban, Foreign Minister under Mr Eshkol and Mr Golda Meir, will return to his old office. Mr Haim Barlev, former chief of staff and Minister of Trade and Industry in the last Labour government, will be Minister of Defence.

The Finance Minister will be Professor Haim Ben Shabbar, president of Tel Aviv University, and his deputy, Mr Naphthali Blumenthal, president of the Kibbutzim (union federation) conglomerate of industrial plants. Mr Gad Yaskobi will be Minister of Trade and Industry.

Conspicuously absent from the team is Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the last Labour prime minister, who fought an unsuccessful campaign against Mr Peres's nomination for the party leadership. The two conferred today that Mr Rabin had agreed to join an elite party group serving as secretariat to a committee dealing with foreign affairs and security.

TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF DICKIE DIRTS FULHAM

Dickie Dirts (retail clothing shop) have been open in Fulham from 9am until 11pm seven days a week for one whole year. These premises were formerly a cinema for 40 years.

Dickie Dirts would like to know if their late night and Sunday opening hours have caused a greater nuisance to any of the local residents

than the cinema did, if in fact there is any nuisance.

PLEASE WRITE TO

Dickie Dirts

396-400 North End Road,
Fulham Broadway,
London SW6.

Tel: 01-381 3169

Court orders Sagan novel to be destroyed

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 9

A Paris court yesterday found Françoise Sagan, the novelist, guilty of plagiarism in her latest work, *Le Chien couchant*, published last November, and ordered the confiscation of all the unsold issues, and the destruction of all the material used to print it. The verdict is regarded as unusually severe.

"Should one now burn Sagan?" the independent Socialist newspaper *Le Matin* asks today.

The court found that the novel was "a relatively original work" that is to say an adaptation of the short story *La Vieille femme* by Jean Houssier, which was published in 1965 by Stock, in a collection entitled *Les Humilisés*, which had very limited sales.

In the foreword to her novel, Mme Sagan acknowledged the debt she owed to M. Houssier whom she chose to thank for his "involuntary" assistance. "Indeed I found the starting point of this tale in his excellent collection of short stories."

The court ruled that this was not enough. Mme Sagan should have asked M. Houssier for permission to be inspired by his short story. As it was not given, the court found that *Le Chien couchant* was an "illicit reproduction" of which Mme Sagan's publisher, Flammarion, was regarded as co-author.

The court forbade the sale or commercialization of any copies of the work on pain of a fine of 150 francs (£13.60) for every copy found on offer to the public one month after the verdict was officially notified.

It also decided that M. Houssier and his publisher would be entitled to half the royalties and sales of Mme Sagan's book, with an advance payment of 30,000 francs on the compensation.

As the court did not order the provisional enforcement of the judgment, an appeal lodged by Mme Sagan's counsel will prevent the immediate confiscation of her novel.

Her counsel asked the court whether the case would have been brought over a book which had sold only 100,000 copies of *Le Chien couchant* have been sold already.

Several commentators find that the case raises disquieting questions about plagiarism in literature. "Which writer has not borrowed from his predecessors or even from his contemporaries the subject of a tale or the theme of a drama? And one knows that the theme of the subject matter is less than the telling of it."



A man said to have robbed a shop in Macon, Georgia, holds a gun to his head as police surround him. He surrendered after 40 minutes. No one was hurt.

English literature audience baffled by academic jargon

Singapore, April 9—Teachers of English, undergraduates and junior college students listened in bewilderment on the opening day of a seven-day conference on the study of English language and literature here yesterday.

Many could not understand what the expert speakers were talking about. The *Straits Times* reported today.

Professor John Sinclair, of the University of Birmingham, apparently lost many of his listeners on the way with such phrases as "the priorities of the discipline (replicability

of analysis, retrievability of evidence for evaluations, respect for objectivity).

The text was printed by the *Straits Times* which said another speaker, Dr. Koh Tai Ann, of Singapore University's Department of English Language and Literature, opened her talk on "The essential discipline in literary studies" with a 104-word sentence.

But Professor Edwin Thumboo believed that there was no excuse for lack of understanding. "We work on the assumption that we are heard by intelligent people," he said. —Agence France-Press.

Malta defers trial of Opposition's deputy chief

From George Sammut
Valletta, April 9

The police case against Dr. Guido De Marco, deputy leader of Malta's opposition Nationalist Party for allegedly making false public accusations against Mr. Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, and leading police officers has been adjourned till April 21.

The magistrate, Dr. Dennis Montebello upheld the defendant's preliminary plea and overruled the prosecution's objection to Dr. De Marco's statement of the facts.

The case arises from a statement by Dr. De Marco at a public meeting, in which he referred to the alleged throwing of an explosive device and its subsequent coverage in the press. He recalled that the editors and reporters involved had been taken for interrogation at police headquarters by night. This interrogation, he stated, could easily have been carried out by day; and he emphasized that the free press would not be intimidated or destroyed by such police tactics.

The police charged Dr. De Marco with having in public falsely accused Mr. Mintoff and the police officers of "bad acts in the administration of government"; that he had wrongly suggested that the arrest of the journalists was a threat against the freedom of the press; and that he had wrongly maintained that democracy and freedom were also threatened.

The defendant pleaded that he was not guilty on the grounds that he had acted in his function as a representative elected by the people to do that for which he was responsible and that he had the right and duty to criticize.

Machine guns used against police in Bilbao

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 9

Terrorists machine-gunned two police vans in Bilbao today, killing one policeman and injuring two others. It was the second fatal shooting attributed to Basque extremists in the Bilbao area in two days.

The assailants opened fire from a stolen delivery van from a distance of about 70 yards as the two vehicles stopped to change a police guard on a bridge.

Yesterday two hooded men stepped out of a car and shot a policeman dead at the door of a school where he had just left his four-year-old daughter.

FOREIGN REPORT

Socialist leader predicts success for third presidential campaign

A little poster began appearing round Paris as the presidential election campaign got under way. "Youth has a future!" it read. "Mitterrand has a past."

M. Francois Mitterrand, creator, leader and candidate of the French Socialist Party, has indeed got a past, both real and legendary. It is at once his greatest attribute and his biggest handicap as he tries once again to win election to the highest post in the land. It is a past which has to be understood to explain his attitudes and give him any credibility for the future.

It is a past full of apparent contradictions. But these contradictions are explained by the evolution of the man. His admirers say that what Mitterrand thinks today, France thinks tomorrow. Certainly his liberal beginnings are closer to the path followed by President Giscard d'Estaing — than they are to the ways of the man today, who talks of creating "a great Socialist Party on the ground occupied by the Communist Party."

His evolution has been not so much gradual as forced upon him by traumatic events. He was born 64 years ago at a time when a man who increasingly believed in his own ability to find a better course for his country.

His desire to plough his own furrow probably increased from 1954 after he was unjustly accused of having leaked decisions of the National Defence Council to the Communist Party. His left-wing tendencies had by then created enemies who were only too ready to point the finger at him.

In all events he began to believe increasingly in the idea that France was controlled by an establishment which curbed real democracy. He felt himself enforced in this belief by the installation of General de Gaulle as President in 1958, an act he considered a flagrant breach of the law. From that moment he shed his inbred deference and emerged as the natural leader of the opposition in France.

The following year he survived an assassination attempt, aimed more at his character than at his person. French Algerian extremists fired on his car and then spread the damaging rumour that he had staged the attack to win sympathy. Nothing the Socialist leader has been able to say or do has ever been able to lay this rumour completely.

From the time he entered into his opposition against the Fifth Republic, Mitterrand dreamed of the day when he could rule over it. He realized early on that if he could only unite the splintered Left, he would then form a party too strong to be beaten by any other political grouping.

By 1965 he had unified the Left sufficiently to be allowed to stand as its sole candidate against General de Gaulle and achieved the not insignificant feat of forcing the founder of the Fifth Republic into a second round of voting. Then came the



Above: A Socialist Party poster proclaims peace, jobs, freedom. Below: M. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader.

movement of May, 1968, and the French bourgeoisie, having glimpsed the potential horrors of revolution, closed ranks and squeezed out the Socialists. Instead of challenging for the presidency again in 1969, Mitterrand chose to try to make the Left respectable and to unite it. In June, 1971, at Epinay he became the Socialist Party which he can now accurately boast is the largest single party in France. Only three years later the old leader of this new party came within

finished it apparently as a spent force. Privately, however, the minister who approved French intervention in Suez and accepted the arrest of Ben Bella, was making a man who increasingly believed in his own ability to find a better course for his country.

His desire to plough his own furrow probably increased from 1954 after he was unjustly accused of having leaked decisions of the National Defence Council to the Communist Party. His left-wing tendencies had by then created enemies who were only too ready to point the finger at him.

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lousness. Then, on June 11, soldiers broke into the French Embassy in Monrovia and seized Mr. Adolphus Tolbert, eldest son of the late President. This was a breach of diplomatic standards which further disturbed the international community.

Since then, however, the ambitious 29-year-old head of state has been at pains to establish his regime's propriety. He is reported to have released Mr. Tolbert on bail, promising him a fair trial, and to have also freed 23 other officials of the Tolbert Government.

The Doe regime's reputed strongman, Brigadier-General Thomas (Quimpon) Sankaw, who is the Commanding General of the Armed Forces, has taken steps to improve military discipline, firmly punishing officers found guilty of harassing civilians.

After being ostracized by the rest of Africa, Liberia has managed to normalize diplomatic relations with Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. Liberia is expected to attend this year's Organization of African Unity summit in Nairobi, much better standing than last year.

Progress has also been made on the economic front. The new rulers inherited \$33m external debt and accumulated a further \$48m debt by various ill-considered early measures, which included doubling the wages of the armed forces and civil servants.

The authorities then froze public spending and introduced compulsory public loans through the purchase of national savings bonds to the value of two months' salary for the better paid and one month's for those who earned less than \$360 a month.

424,599 votes of winning presidency. Since then the Union of Left, signed with the Communist Party in 1972, has disgraced.

The collapse of the Union of Left has not shaken Mitterrand's faith that a Union of the Left with Communist voters is possible. He believes his programme limited nationalization, tax reform, helping the lower income, improving social services sufficient to attract up to 6 million of the regular million Communist voters.

Even added to his Socialist support, that would not be enough on its own to win the Elysée as President. He will need to win away some of the Gaullist vote and to attempt to do just that, describes himself as the candidate capable of making entire French nation unite on a goal which he borrowed from General Gaullist.

He has had problems of his own party, posed large M. Michel Rocard, the self-pointed dauphin of the Socialist Party. Rocard's political acumen M. Mitterrand has beaten off the challenge the party has stayed at behind him. The Rocard may represent the next stage in the evolution of the Socialist but it is too liberal pragmatic a one for the party leader.

If he wins Mitterrand will aware that he must change quickly to avoid a point of no return which could split his party again and bring the Rocard challenge to the fore.

He describes his own climb as a slow climb up a long, steep hill. Whether he will find Elysian fields at the top merely a clear view across a valley to a higher of French conservatism is key question of the election.

Ian Mur

This is the third of four articles leading figures in the contest for French presidency. The articles: Georges Marchais and M. Jacques appeared in previous Foreign Reports.



Unrealistic expectations lead to growth in worker militancy

Freedom swells labour unrest in Zimbabwe

● This is the fifth article in a series by Nicholas Ashford to mark the first anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence on April 18.

Salisbury. The Salisbury Portland Cement Company, a subsidiary of the British Blue Circle group, has long had a reputation for being among the most progressive employers in Zimbabwe.

For years it has been among the country's "top five" employers as far as wages are concerned and at present the company's \$25 hourly paid workers earn over £16 per month more than the minimum wage of £57 a month introduced by the Government.

The company was also one of the first to introduce a liaison committee consisting of employees and management representatives in the early 1970s and three years ago the entire staff, from Mr. Dewhurst, the managing director, downwards, was sent on an "industrial awareness" course.

However, the company's attempts to improve industrial relations have only partly cushioned the firm against the wave of worker militancy which has spread through the country since independence.

Although the company was not hit by the rash of strikes which affected many other plants, there were problems caused by a group of militant workers who tried to set up an "unofficial" workers' committee last year before the Government had published its guidelines on workers' committees.

Government officials had to be called in to explain the situation to the workers and then had to be called in again last month when workers

refused to elect committee members by secret ballot, even though the Government's guidelines, published in February, provide for secret ballot.

These are problems which are familiar to those involved with the British labour scene, but they are relatively new to Zimbabwe, where many employers, before independence, adopted a "take it or leave it" attitude towards their workers.

The industrial unrest after independence was caused largely by unrealistic expectations among workers. They wanted more pay, better conditions and more jobs all at once—and companies could not meet these demands.

More often than not Mr. Kumbira Kangai, Minister of Labour, or one of his senior officials had to intervene warning workers that they would lose their jobs unless they followed statutory industrial conciliation procedures.

In an attempt to improve management-worker relations the Government has encouraged the setting up of workers' committees. Members of these committees, which are similar to the old liaison committees except that there is no taint of management influence, have been established in factories, offices and on farms throughout the country.

Their main function is to improve communication between management and workers through joint representation questions such as pay, conditions of service and other in a "works council" on company matters.

Although Mr. Dewhurst is convinced that the former liaison committee performed a valuable task at Salisbury Portland Cement, the workers

appear to believe that it was too much under the influence of management.

When elections were held for the workers' committee last month, none of the former liaison committee members was re-elected. Mr. Duncan Chaparanda, who was elected chairman, is the man who tried to form the "unofficial" workers' committee last year.

Mr. Chaparanda has an infectious smile which disguises his militancy. He is deeply suspicious of management, believing that it tried to stop a workers' committee being set up—which clearly was not the case.

The list of complaints he intends raising once the works council has been formed range from pay and housing to the fact that "lower paid workers are given tea with powdered milk and brown sugar while the better paid get fresh milk and white sugar."

Mr. Dewhurst, who expresses pride in his company's labour record to date, does not seem unduly disturbed by the new militancy which has infected industrial relations. "I am confident that given time, and training the new committee will prove to be useful. The trouble is that at the moment they have little knowledge of the workings of a concept like this."

What the Government has yet to work out is the future relationship between workers' committees and the trade unions. The committees sprang up largely because workers felt that their interests were not adequately represented by the unions. The unions have now become concerned that the committees are taking over some of their responsibilities.

The Government is trying to encourage a complete restructuring of the country's trade-union movement which repre-

sents less than 10 per cent of the million Zimbabweans in paid employment.

A new Zimbabwe Confederation of Trade Unions (ZCTU) has been set up and, according to Mr. Ignatius Chigwendere, a senior Labour Ministry official, the intention is to reduce the present 140 or so registered and unregistered unions down to a handful of powerful, broadly based ones, as exists in West Germany. The trade unions would then be responsible for negotiations at a national level while the workers' committees would represent workers at plant level.

However, trade unionists fear that the power of the committees could be increased if they are used as vehicles to obtain workers' participation in management. "We want to build up these committees," Mr. Chigwendere said, "so they become partners in production. But we are not going to force this issue. The aim is gradually to give them more responsibility so that in the end we have true democracy in industry."

The whole question of industrial relations in Zimbabwe will be covered by the commission of inquiry on incomes, prices and conditions of service headed by Mr. Roger Ridgell. The commission is expected to complete its massive report this month for publication in the middle of the year.

This report will give a clearer idea of how the Government sees relations between workers and management as well as developments in matters such as pay, the introduction of a scientific basis for a minimum wage, and the ending of race discrimination.

Next: the economic boom

Amnesty may solve Italy's jail problem

From Peter Nichols
Rome, April 9

The Italian Government is considering an amnesty as the simplest expedient for relieving the overcrowded state of the prisons, a situation which could, it is feared, bring serious violence in the summer.

At the end of last year, the number of prisoners was approaching 32,000 of whom 1,466 were women and an increased percentage was under 35 years of age. It is estimated that there are about 6,000 more prisoners than the system can reasonably accommodate.

Senator Adolfo Sarti, the Minister of Justice, touched on a possible recourse to another amnesty during testimony given yesterday to the Senate justice commission. He made it clear that nothing had yet been decided and that the political parties would first be consulted.

The decision will not be easy, in itself, because the coalition parties are divided, and could fatally add to the impression of a weak Government, which emerges from two parliamentary defeats today and one yesterday.

Spokesmen, both of the Socialist and Republican Parties, which are members of this coalition Government, have expressed more than doubts on the idea. The opposition parties are highly critical. The Radicals state today that the idea showed the Government's incapacity to face the problems of justice in a serious way.

If this amnesty is agreed it will be the seventh to be declared in the last 21 years. Exponents of a proper reform of justice point out that about two thirds of the prisoners are awaiting trial or the hearings of appeals, so that the principal task is to accelerate the process.

The bitterness aroused by this indiscriminate mixture of the guilty with those still technically held to be innocent is regarded as one of the reasons why prisons are a training ground for crime, including recruitment to terrorism. Government critics point out that the terrorist movements, led by the far-left-wing "Red Brigades", look on the prisons as a vulnerable institution which should be attacked.

The uncertainties aroused by the issue of the amnesty were underlined today by Signor Evaristo Bianco, leader of the governing Christian Democrats in the Chamber of Deputies. He called for a meeting of the heads of the coalition parties to agree on a plan of action, particularly on institutional and economic problems, such as to keep the Administration in office until this legislature comes naturally to an end.

South Korea breaks up two spy rings

From Jacqueline Rediff
Seoul, April 9

Two communist spy rings were broken and 11 of their members detained today by the South Korean National Security Planning Agency (NSP).

The NSP—the former Central Intelligence Agency—said the 11 had been spying for the North Koreans over a long period. The two groups had supplied the north with information about South Korean security matters and tried to recruit communist sympathizers and spread subversive rumours. The NSP said it had confiscated radio receivers, forged documents, ideological books and clothes made in North Korea. Six of the 11 detained were women.

كذلك من الأصل

Michael Knight

THE PILGRIMS' AIRPORT

Saudia

Time to take a longer breath

Saudia, the national airline of Saudi Arabia and the main user of the new Jeddah international airport, has grown remarkably, increasing its passenger load from 150,000 in 1974 to about nine million last year.

Such enormous expansion in international aviation, with its high technology, has inevitably brought problems, the largest of which has been the training of technical staff, from pilots to maintenance staff. To its credit, the airline's management has not been too proud to lean upon the experience of foreign airlines.

As a result, it now has a solid base of well-trained Saudis moving up through middle management to the top posts, although because of the size to which the airline has grown it will be some years yet before complete Saudization is achieved.

Shakir Ahmed Mattar, the director general of Saudia, who keeps up his jet captain's licences by flying several services a month, said to me in Jeddah: "Year after year we have not stopped to take breath, and so in our 1980-84 plan we have introduced a different concept — one of controlled expansion, of expanding well within our capabilities, with an expansion target of 30 per cent a year. This will give us time to draw a longer breath and, among other things, to analyse our service to our passengers. Although we are proud of the service we offer, we think there is a need to make it even better."

The reduced expansion talked about by the chief executive seems like big growth to most other world airlines, which are going through a period of recession. During last year and this, Saudia is taking into its fleet 11 new wide-bodied airliners — five more Lockheed TriStars and six Boeing 747s, all powered by Rolls-Royce RB211 engines.

In the slightly longer term, the airline is buying 11 Airbus Industrie European A300s. The first of these is due to be delivered in April 1984.

This order was of particular significance in several ways. Saudia ordered a new and more efficient version of the A300 — the A300-600 — and then broke away from its long association with Rolls-Royce, choosing American Pratt and Whitney JT9D-7R4H1 engines, delivering 56,000lb take off thrust, to

power it. The airline thus set an example which several other airlines in the Middle East are expected to follow. This dashed the hopes of the British company of having its RB211-524D4 chosen for an Airbus, so breaking into a buoyant market which is completely dominated by the American engine companies Pratt and Whitney and General Electric.

Saudia TriStars were involved in two accidents during 1980. In the first, all 14 crew and 287 passengers were killed after fire broke out in the aircraft and it made emergency landing at Riyadh. In the second, two passengers fell to their deaths through a hole blown in the cabin floor by a tyre explosion in the undercarriage bay while the aircraft was over the Gulf.

The airline exists to further the development of the kingdom, and it is impossible to apply the normal airline industry commercial standards to it. It was, for instance, instructed by the Government to reduce its domestic fares to a level at which, one executive joked, "it's cheaper than going on a donkey".

As a result of this policy Saudia loses money but is compensated by its Government. Domestic services account for 70 per cent of the airline's activity, while producing only 30 per cent of its revenue. Saudia uses mainly Boeing 737s on its internal services, while its TriStars and 747s range the international routes of the world, from London in the west to Bombay and Karachi in the east, and to Africa in the south. Saudia also operates the Royal Family's aircraft, including a Boeing 747SP (special performance).

For reservations, Saudia uses the British Airways BABS computer at West London terminal, 3,000 miles distant, via satellites over the Indian and Atlantic oceans. It is due to go over to its own computer next year and will add other functions to it, including payroll, finance, engineering stores and flight crew scheduling.

Flight crews on Saudia aircraft are of mixed nationality or all — Saudi, depending on how the roster works out. The airline has its own simulators installed at Jeddah, but sends its young pilots to the United States for initial training. Training standards are those of the United States Federal Aviation Administration, with

the airline's own standards imposed on top. The airline plans to build its own flight training academy this decade, with its own fleet of 12 light aircraft.

The academy would have its own resident inspectors from the FAA. It will permit the airline to dispense with its flight scholarships in the United States, increase its annual intake of new pilots from the present 100 recruited from high school to 150, and eliminate the homesickness suffered by the recruits, some of whom have never been out of their own country before.

Women cannot work in Saudi Arabia, so Saudia recruits its woman cabin staff from abroad. At the last count it had girls from 36 foreign countries wearing its uniform. It has its own cabin training school, at Jeddah, putting an average of 1,100 initial trainees through it each year, and a further 1,400 on refresher courses.

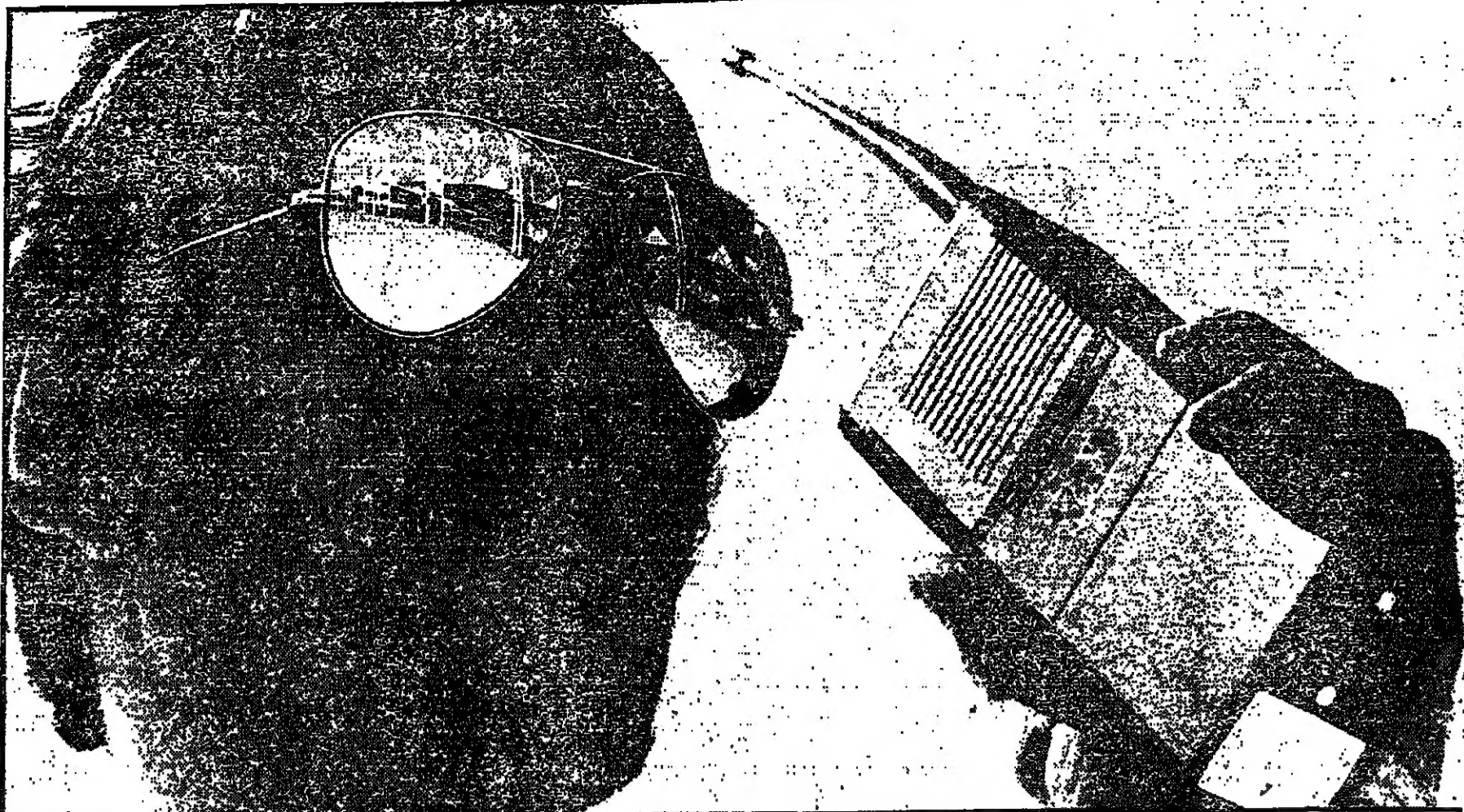
Maintenance of Saudia's airliner fleet is carried out by the airline at its base at Jeddah, although some engineering is done on some aircraft at other bases in the kingdom and abroad. The airline is now one of the most experienced in the world in servicing the Rolls-Royce RB211 engine, and in keeping it operating smoothly in the kingdom's particular environment of heat and sand, the latter condition being so acute that it can erode the airfoil of jet engine fan blades to the sharpness of a knife.

Saudia has come a long way in a short time. The company was established in 1945 with three Douglas DC 3 Dakota aircraft, one of which was given to the King by President Roosevelt of the United States.

These were used to fly a somewhat irregular passenger and mail service between Riyadh and Jeddah and to Dhahran at, it was estimated, speeds about 70 times faster than the traditional form of transport in the country — the camel.

In 1952, Saudia bought 10 Convair 440 airliners. These brought all the kingdom's cities within comfortable range of each other, helping the airline to begin to play a significant role in the development of the country. They also opened up the Holy Cities of Islam to pilgrims on an unprecedented scale.

Arthur Reed



An airport guard reflects on the security of the Haj terminal.

Transport policy

Roads offer alternative travel

The opening of the new Jeddah airport comes as the prelude to a new era of comprehensive and, for the traveller, low-cost network encompassing the kingdom's 20 airports. The core is the strategic east-west corridor between Jeddah and Dhahran via Riyadh, which accounted for about 80 per cent of passenger traffic.

Airport use is to continue to rise steeply, according to government forecasts. The third plan (1980-85) estimates that arrivals and departures at Saudi airports will rise to 26,500,000 in 1985-86 compared with just over 13 millions in 1977-78.

Ambitious plans have been drafted to meet booming demand for air transport both into and within the kingdom. The heart of the programme is the three international airports being built in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran under the supervision of the International Airports Programme Office.

Work at Riyadh has been proceeding at a remarkable pace, since construction started there in 1978. The airport will start operating

by 1985. Dhahran airport is still at the planning stage. Elsewhere, airports at Abha and Jazan in the south-west, and Medina and Taif, which is south-east of Mecca, are to be upgraded in the third plan to accommodate demand for air services but also left Saudia with growing deficits. These amounted to an average of 100 rials (\$30) for each domestic ticket by early 1981.

To correct this trend, Saudia announced a 70 per cent increase in fares in March. This will help the airline to meet its planned target of achieving a financial balance in its domestic services. The cost of travelling first class between Jeddah and Riyadh is now 84 rials (\$243) compared with 420 rials before the increases.

The decision to allow increases of this size is the first step towards an integrated Saudi transport policy. It may have been influenced by the establishment since 1978 of an inter-

city bus network run by the state-owned Saudi Public Transport Company (Sapco). Bus fares are deliberately kept down. For example, the fare for the 150 km journey to Taif from Jeddah is \$3. This is likely to encourage Saudis to use the roads more.

However, air transport is expected to remain the most important way of getting around the kingdom for the immediate future. The kingdom's size and the inhospitable environment outside the widely dispersed settlements will continue to keep business travellers off the roads.

A rise in passenger traffic to towns outside the major commercial centres is forecast, as development intensifies in the regions. Medina and Abha are expected to be the airports most heavily used. Arrivals and departures at both are expected to rise to more than a million by 1983-84 compared with

500,000 at each in 1977-78. By 1983-84, the total for six main domestic airports — Abha, Jazan, Medina, Qassim, Tabuk and Taif — will rise to more than 4,600,000 compared with over two million in 1977-78.

To service this mark pursue plans for expansion worldwide, is buying several new passenger jets. A \$500m order for 11 Airbus Industrie A300 series wide-bodied aircraft was placed in January. Another nine Convair 440s are to be added to the 13 already operating, a Boeing 747 to the 9 in 1973 and 707s already in the fleet. These purchases, wholly-owned aircraft, Saudi's fleet to 74, is the airline the fastest in the world.

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The Haj

Gateway for upholders of the fifth pillar of Islam

The Haj is the pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca. Haj means "effort" — the effort of submerging one's self in the will of God. The journey to Mecca is one physical manifestation of this effort.

The Haj is the fifth pillar of Islam (the other four are the declaration of the unity of God and acceptance of the prophethood of Muhammad, the five daily prayers, fasting during the month of Ramadan, and zakat, the poor due). Every Muslim, if he or she has the means, is required to undertake the journey to the "Barren Valley" of Mecca at least once.

The experience defies description, but its attraction is so compelling that it is a dream of every Muslim, whatever his place of birth or place in society, to visit Mecca and receive the grace of God.

The Haj is performed during the second week of the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth month of

the Muslim calendar. As this is a lunar calendar it moves through the seasons, completing a cycle every 35 years. This year the Haj will occur during the second week of October.

The final destination of the pilgrims is the Ka'aba in the Masjid al-Haram, the sacred mosque. The Ka'aba is the focus of the Muslim community and a symbol of the unchanging values of Islam. Mecca is about 70 km east of Jiddah, is surrounded by a high, rugged mountain chain, and has a harsh climate.

It was a centre of pilgrimage for more than 2,000 years before the birth of Islam, and was the birthplace of Muhammad.

For most of the two million or so pilgrims who perform the Haj every year, the point of entry into the hajj, the holy area, is Jiddah. Air travel has taken over from the traditionally common mode of transport, the caravan. The

Egyptian caravan set out from Cairo, crossed the Sinai peninsula and then followed the coastal plain, a journey of about 40 days. Pilgrims from north and north-west Africa joined the caravan in Cairo. The second great caravan assembled in Damascus and moved south via Medina, reaching Mecca in about 30 days. The third caravan crossed the Arabian peninsula from Baghdad.

The modern pilgrim flies direct to Jiddah airport, where he waits for up to 24 hours for his passport to be processed and a pilgrim guide to be assigned to him. The arrangements at the new airport, it is claimed, will cut the time taken to complete entry formalities for each pilgrim to about four hours.

At Jiddah, the pilgrims abandon their worldly dress, and with it their material desires, and assume the state of ihram. Physically, the ihram consists of two unsewn sheets of cloth — a loin cloth and a shoulder cover with which the pilgrims

cover themselves. Spiritually, the ihram consists of many sacred prohibitions; there cannot be any acts of aggression (even the plucking of a flower is forbidden), personal adornments are forbidden and sexual desires and impulses must be sublimated. Once in ihram the pilgrims move towards Mecca.

Pilgrims are transported from Jiddah to Mecca in special pilgrim buses. The agency which has exclusive control of Haj transport is the Haj Vehicles Union. This is a government agency under the Ministry of Haj, and it aims to control the fair distribution of pilgrims among the Haj transport companies.

There are five privately-owned Haj transport companies, whose total fleet capacities cannot meet the rising numbers of pilgrims. The union distributes the pilgrims to the transport companies on the basis of a rotating priority system and according to the capacity of

each company. The union also collects the fees for the trip and gives the money to the companies. It sets standards for the vehicles and the level of service desired from each company.

The intention of the Saudi Government in setting up the union was to prevent harmful competition between the transport companies and possible exploitation of the pilgrims. It has succeeded in these goals to some extent. However, since the transport companies are assured of their income they have no incentive to improve the service. Bitter complaints from the pilgrims — overloading, being left without a driver, maltreatment — are common. Moreover, as the present regulations of the union prevent the companies from transporting anyone except pilgrims, their fleet remains idle for the rest of the year. They are thus forced to demand exorbitant fees from the pilgrims.

On entering the city of Mecca, the pilgrims go straight to the sacred mosque. In the haram they walk seven times around the Ka'aba to show their readiness to obey the command of God. After performing the circumambulation of the Ka'aba, the pilgrims perform the sa'iy, the act of covering seven times the ground between the hills of Sufa and Marwah — a reenactment of the search for water by Hajar, the wife of the prophet Abraham. The rest of the time in Mecca is spent in absorbing the history and the spiritual fervour of the city.

The Haj proper begins on the eighth day of Dhu al-Hijjah when the pilgrims make their way to Muna, a small village five miles east of Mecca, to spend the night in prayer, meditation and preparation for the rite of wuquf (the standing), which occurs the next day.

The ninth day of Dhu al-Hijjah is the Day of Arafat. The pilgrims leave for Arafat and reach the plains before midday. It is there that the supreme hours of the Haj are spent.



Pilgrims in contemplative mood pass through Jiddah, the point of entry to the holy area.

When the sun passes the meridian, the ritual of wuquf begins. The two million pilgrims stand together, all dressed in identical unsewn sheets of cloth, praying for forgiveness and guidance. The Brotherhood of Islam reaches its peak there, but the overriding experience is personal.

Immediately after sunset on the ninth day of Dhu al-Hijjah the nafrah — the mass exodus of pilgrims from the plains of Arafat towards Muzdalifah — begins. Muzdalifah is an open plain sheltered by low hills, with a sparse growth of thorn bushes. The pilgrims spend a night under the open sky and turn back towards Muna the next morning.

Back in Muna the pilgrims spend three nights during which they perform two major rites: "the stoning of Satan" and the sacrifice of an animal. The stoning is a gesture which symbolizes the pilgrims' repudiation of evil. The sacrifice has several

meanings: it commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son; it symbolizes the preparedness of Muslims to give up what is dear to them; it marks the renunciation of idolatrous sacrifice; it reminds the pilgrims of those who are less fortunate; it offers thanksgiving to God. As Muslims everywhere offer identical sacrifices on the same day, the sacrifice is also part of a worldwide celebration which unites those on the Haj with Muslims everywhere.

Throughout their stay in Mecca, Muna and Arafat, the pilgrims are under the protection of pilgrim guides, the mutawwif. The pilgrims are assigned to mutawwif who serve as general aids and guides and are also responsible for accommodation, local transport, and the feeding of the pilgrims. Because business is guaranteed, traditional standards of mutawwif care and hospitality have seriously declined. Moreover, many sincere mutawwif have not been able to adjust to the rapid rate of increase in the numbers of pilgrims. Thus, many mutawwif leave the pilgrims to fend for themselves. The Saudi Govern-

ment is reexamining the traditional mutawwif system and major changes are expected.

In Mecca the pilgrims stay in houses owned or rented by the mutawwif. Those who can afford it stay in the plush, over-priced Meccan hotels. A large population of pilgrims live on the streets of Mecca. In Muna the mutawwif accommodation consists largely of purpose-built houses and tents. There, too, many pilgrims end up with makeshift arrangements on the streets. In Arafat accommodation consists only of mutawwif tents.

In general mutawwif provide food for their pilgrims, but a huge amount of imported food is also available from the shops and street restaurants which spring up during the Haj season and crowd both sides of the Mecca-Muna road. A large fleet of mobile food stores moves with the pilgrims from Muna to Arafat, and then to Muzdalifah.

Transport between Mecca and Muna, and to Arafat, is by car, and by pilgrim and private buses. The main traffic problem in this circuit is the presence of large buses collecting pilgrims for

the journey to Arafat in the narrow streets of Mecca. Formerly, departure from Arafat was a big problem, but this has apparently been solved by the construction of several bridges.

One solution which has evidently been successful is the construction of two walkways between Arafat and Muna; these are fully used by the pilgrims.

The problems associated with the movement of two million pilgrims in a valley less than 2 km wide are formidable. Pilgrims come to Mecca prepared to face hardship. For generations they have put up with problems of accommodation, food, and travel, and the harsh climate of Mecca.

Now, however, they face a new hurdle in their spiritual quest — advanced technology and the alienation which it generates. This technology is alien to the harsh, natural environment of the Haj. The challenge of meeting the difficulties of the Haj in a manner which preserves the purity of a sacred places has yet to be met.

Ziauddin Sardar
science editor,
Arabia: Islamic World Review

15 hours to process one person

"There is no other occasion in the world's calendar of events when so many gather in one small place or so short a time", Mr Samer Maddah, manager of the Haj terminal at the new Jiddah airport, says. He has been given the task of supervising the arrival and departure of all pilgrims into Saudi Arabia through this terminal.

"It takes 15 hours to process a single hajji at the airport and that is why there are dormitories, because they fall asleep while waiting," Mr Maddah adds. He is heading a special committee to cut that wait to a maximum of four hours. A whole range of government departments has to scrutinise a Haj visa immigration,

internal security, registration, health and the Interior Ministry.

After that, the Department of Religious Affairs has to organize the hajji's transport to Mecca and Medina and put him in a group which is supervised by a registered Saudi mawid who will stay with the group throughout the Haj. Finally there is a department to make sure that everybody leaves the country, because a large number of poor hajjis try to stay on to find work in the lucrative labour market of Saudi Arabia.

For this reason the committee, which has the assistance of foreign experts and a computer, has named the terminal the Haj Facilities

Complex. The terminal will eventually be able to handle 80,000 people a day during the short, but intense, 10-week season. For the rest of the year it will be used for Umra flights (the smaller haj that can be done throughout the year), student and teacher flights and even exhibitions.

The committee will be having a trial run in the Haj season this autumn although this year the terminal will not be handling all the Haj traffic. Mr Maddah emphasizes that the biggest problem will be changing old methods of work because every relevant government department will be represented in the terminal and they will have to work in a

new coordinated manner: "No easy task when you are working under the pressure of having to get the hajjis to Mecca by a certain date or to Arafat by sunset", Mr Maddah said.

The Haj terminal has been labelled grandiose and unmanageable. Its symbolic importance to the Saudis and to many Muslims arriving for the most important trip of their lives, was put by Major Jall, public relations officer at the airport: "Such an airport serves more than a function — it is a symbol and serves as a service and a backdrop to Islam's most holy place — Mecca".

Jamal Rasheed

Architecture

Inverted trumpet shapes of a bisected 'city'

What single, widespread and characteristic building type best symbolizes the scale and pace of change and development in the twentieth century, as the railway terminus did for the nineteenth? The obvious answer must be the airport, both for its role in the progress of communications and for its accessibility to increasing numbers of the population of developed and developing countries alike.

Now often the size of a town in area and working population — and generally more complex in the services and systems which it requires — the airport has become at once the gateway of modern international commerce and the focus of the mass service industry of tourism. Occasionally, too, it may acquire other roles; facilities may have to be shared with a military or defence installation.

Even more exceptionally, an airport has to meet yet another need, as in the case of the new Jiddah International airport, which will replace the former, recently expanded complex. For, over and above its more generally understood functions, Jiddah is the main point of entry into the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for devout Muslims making the Haj (pilgrimage) to the Holy Places of Mecca and Medina.

As such, the new Jiddah airport will have a unique place in the not particularly well-documented architectural history of airports and airport terminal buildings. Despite a pedigree of more than half a century, these still receive little attention in the obvious reference sources, such as Nikolaus Pevsner's *History of Building Types*, or the most recent edition of Banister Fletcher's *History of Architecture*.

Nikolaus Pevsner writes: "Of important modern buildings there are more than can be referred to here. In whatever country, they all seem to be forever growing, frames or scaffolds, never leave the premises. The architectural results, however, are indifferent." The completion of the new airport, however, should provide a long-needed chapter of architectural history and perhaps, in the process, will lead to a review of the numerous new airports in the Middle East.

The architectural parentage of the new airport, in its form, is impressive. In 1975 the Saudi authorities decided, in face of increasing passenger traffic, to go for a major expansion of the original mid-1960s plan — with added facilities for the Saudi Air Force as well as for the national flag carrier, Saudia. It was at this stage that the government brought in the internationally renowned American firm of architects, Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM), to draw up a completely new master plan for the replacement airport.

Founded in 1935, this firm originally rose to prominence with the aid of United States government contracts initially the wartime atomic research centre at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and



The royal terminal: a palace in miniature.

later the US Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Best known for its classic modern office towers such as Lever House, New York, of 1952, the practice also laid the foundations of the planning knowledge needed for masterplanning such a large-scale project as Jiddah airport with the Chicago Circle Campus for the University of Illinois.

Only since the mid-1960s has SOM really been working on a worldwide scale — its British collaborations include headquarters complexes for Boots, Heinz and W.D. & H.O. Wills — and it is relatively new to the Middle East. Its philosophy, however, is eminently exportable; the firm creates the organization within which "the people who produce the architecture can function, as the founding partners put it."

Architectural interest in the new airport focuses on the three terminal pavilions and the Haj complex. The south is the major commercial terminal intended mainly for Saudia's own international and domestic flights. Appropriately for the national airline's prestige point, it is clad (externally and internally) and floored in specially

imported Italian marble. It incorporates a hotel and a mosque (one of four in the whole development).

Facing it is the north terminal, built for the movements of other, foreign airlines. This is less expensively finished than the south terminal, but both share the same overall external design concept, with their gently scalloped concave roof shells counterpointing a line of long, low arches along the main elevations.

Standing a little apart to the west of the central aircraft operations area on the Medina Road is the Royal Pavilion, with its own apron for the use of the Saudi Royal Family and visiting heads of state. Distinctive in its design (by the Michigan architect Minoru Yamasaki), it is clad in a copper roof. A distinguished palace in miniature, it adds a fitting note of climax to the arrangements for the reception of passengers.

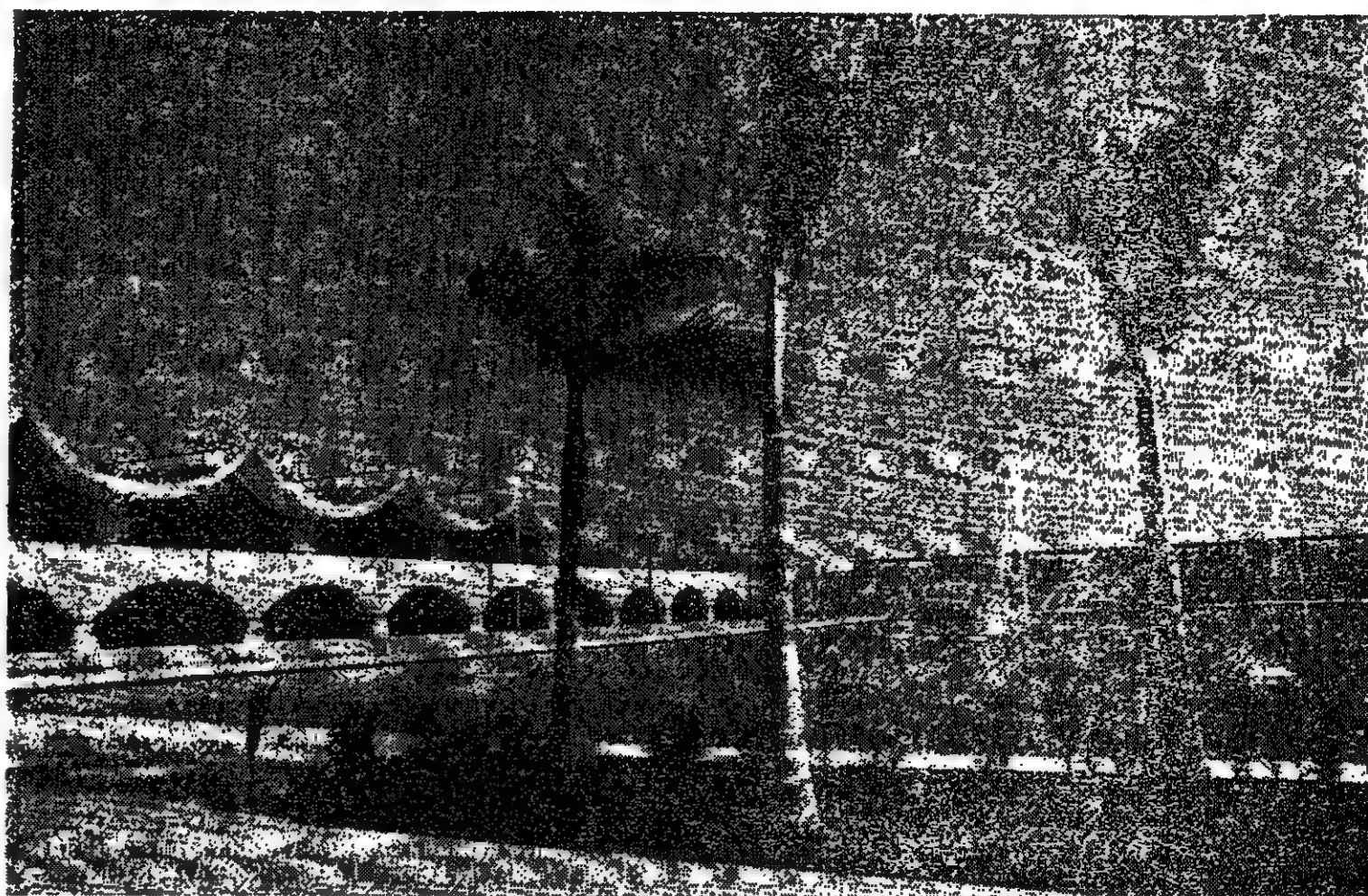
The real architectural landmark of the entire site of more than 100 square kilometres is SOM's own Haj terminal, standing on its own to the north of the main handling facilities but within easy reach of the runways during the short, frenetic period of a few weeks every year when the pilgrimage season is in full swing. Designed in two halves, on either side of a central spine road giving access to Mecca, it has not only to handle up

to 5,000 arrivals an hour, but to hold many of them while they decide their pilgrimage arrangements. What SOM has provided for them, in appropriately enough, a bisected tent city which is modern in style and covers about 50 hectares.

The terminal is built up from 210 tapering, glass-fibre fabric-covered "tents", their inverted trumpet shapes echoing the soft roof curves of the normal terminals. They are supported by 45-metre high steel and concrete pylons and banked into modules flanking the access road on either side. For the comfort of pilgrims during their hours of waiting, the tent walls are left open to the winds for natural ventilation. The fabric is also designed to admit adequate daylight. Inside are restaurants, lounges and mosques, as well as customs and immigration facilities. Modern technology has succeeded in making the terminal a close approximation to the traditional tent of the Arabian traveller.

Even during its construction, the pilgrims' tent city has provided the main visual attraction of the whole airport development and should, together with the new airport, have more than a mere footnote in future works of architectural history.

a Special Correspondent

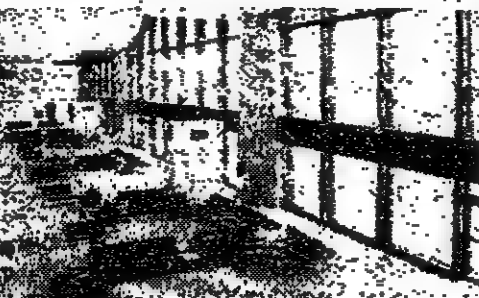


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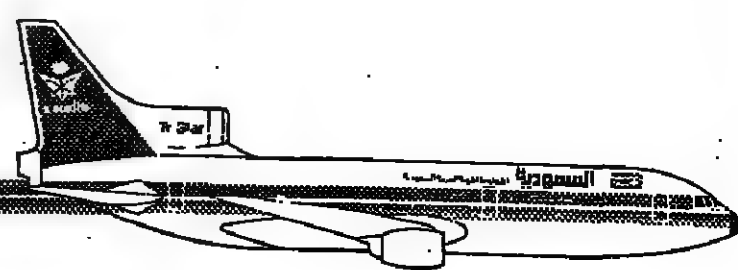
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THE PILGRIMS' AIRPORT

In the past 10 years the population of Jiddah, the commercial capital of Saudi Arabia, has tripled. George Duncan, who has worked as an architect and planner in the city for the past 12 years, reports on its remarkable growth

Roads surround the tomb of Eve

Looking at Jiddah today, a bustling, growing city of well over a million people, it is almost impossible to believe that until 1947 it was a walled settlement of about 30,000 inhabitants and had been so with changes in its fortunes, for as long as recorded time. Like all ancient cities which survive, it commands an essential location in the movement of people and goods. The formidable triple banks of the Red Sea coral reefs have a navigable deep-water gap there.

The Asir Escarpment, a towering 1,700-metre, near-vertical face, which stretches unbroken from Yemen, the Arabia Felix of the Romans, tapers off about 100km inland. Jiddah itself, on the hot, humid coastal plain, lacked water, but between Jiddah and Mecca lies the Wadi Faima, where underground aquifers allowed a plentiful supply of water, and food, even though, until recent times, a laborious day or two's camel journey away from Jiddah.

The existence of Jiddah, and Mecca, at this crossing point of the north-south route (from Arabia Felix to Egypt and Mesopotamia) and east-west route (from the Red Sea into the interior) is thus ancient and pre-Islamic. It is said that Jiddah was built upon the tomb of Eve, a recorded drawing of the tomb appears in an account of Jiddah by Richard Burton published in 1853, when he computed it to 200 paces long.

The cemetery containing the tomb, now disappeared, is still there, just outside the old city to the north. A generation ago it was uncompassed by the desert, now it is surrounded on every side by roads and buildings.

Mecca, the Holy City of Islam since the time of the Prophet Muhammad in the sixth century, was where Abraham left his slave wife, Hagar, and their son, Ismail, who, near death, were succoured by the miracle of a fountain of water gushing from the desert. To Muslims this spring is the water of Zam Zam, located within the Holy Mosque, with the Ka'aba at its centre.

The fifth pillar of Islam is the Haj or pilgrimage to Mecca, and with the spread of Islam throughout the world, Jiddah acquired a further role to that of a trading centre: the gateway to Mecca for sea and land pilgrims. The growth in the number of pilgrims now making the Haj is even more startling than that of the growth of the population of Jiddah. Twenty, even 15, years ago the pilgrims could be counted in tens of thousands. Now more than two million pilgrims perform the Haj each year.

Little wonder that the most striking feature of the new airport is the Haj terminal. Pilgrims arriving by air far exceed sea and land arrivals and this is now the principal means of travel for non-Saudi pilgrims through Jiddah en route to Mecca. The arrival of hundreds of pilgrims, all dressed identically in their thram or simple white draped towels. They walk calmly in a great crocodile down the steps from their jumbo jet and

across the taxiway to their purpose-built accommodation.

The sub-region contains a third city, Taif, which stands atop the escarpment and is the summer capital. It was there that the third Islamic conference was held earlier this year. The Jiddah-Mecca-Taif corridor contains more than two million people and is the most populous and fastest growing area of the kingdom. With so much going for them, this group of cities is bound to grow and prosper.

Five regions are identified

In 1968, after some pioneer regional planning research which identified five regions, the Saudi authorities asked the United Nations for help in setting up regional and city planning studies and in appointing consultants to this work. The largest and most sensitive region was the Western Region, which contains the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, as well as Jiddah, Taif, Tabuk and Yanbu.

After a joint United Nations-Saudi review and short-listing of international planning consultants who could tackle planning work of this magnitude, the Western Region is half again as large as Britain, Robert Marchon, Johnson-Marshall and Partners (RMJM) was appointed, set up offices in Jiddah and started work in 1971. Jamieson, Mackay and Partners was appointed by RMJM as transport consultant.

The three-year programme started with comprehensive demographic, transport and land-use surveys. These surveys established, for the first time in the kingdom, the statistical information essential to predict — or attempt to predict — the likely patterns of growth and change over 1975-80 in the region's six major cities and its other towns and rural areas. This survey work was possible only because Fairley (now Clyde) Surveys had been commissioned by RMJM to update and expand the existing mapping.

Because of the special nature of the Holy Cities and also the wish of the ministry (now the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs) to have its consultants train young Saudi architects, planners, geographers, road engineers and technicians, the British team worked from the outset with Saudi counterparts. While it was not always easy to maintain the momentum of an important planning exercise within a very tight programme and at the same time help and direct a Saudi team, with considerable tact and patience, on both sides, the "merger" was successful.

Over the past 10 years, RMJM has trained and worked with more than 100 Saudi professionals and technicians. Fortunately, English is the second language of Saudi Arabia.

The regional plan set the framework for both urban and rural distribution, emphasis and pace of growth. It was within this overall context that the role and contribution of the six most important cities and the 18

smaller towns was determined. It took 15 months of intense surveys and information collection to reach the stage of predicting the patterns of growth and change in the region over the 20-year plan period.

This was then presented to the High Committee — the supreme decision-making body of the client, Jiddah, the committee was informed that a population of 371,000 in 1971. By 1991, the city would grow, based on permutations of a range of factors, to somewhere between 700,000 and 1,650,000 people. Silence and disbelief met this statement.

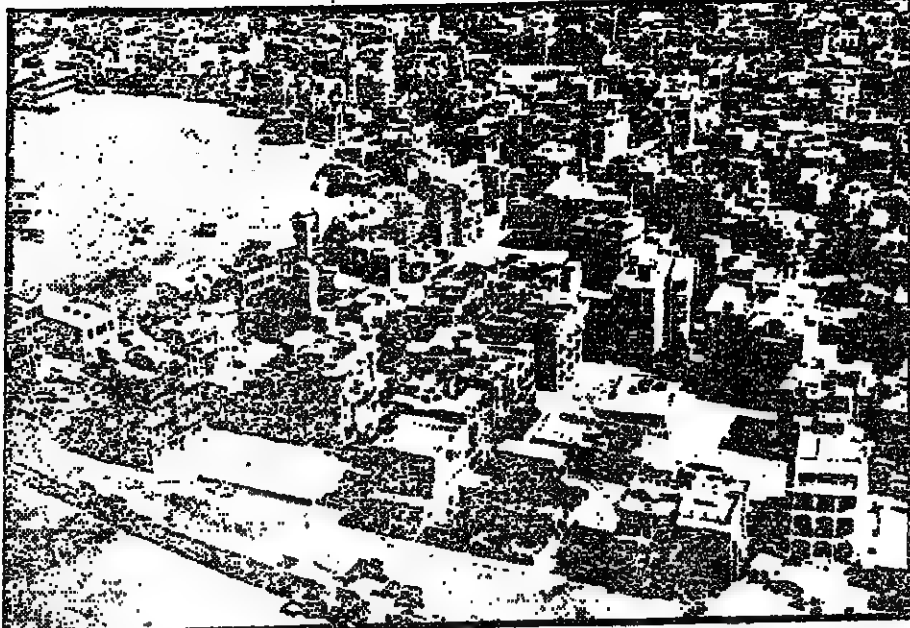
It then took some time for the consultants to explain and convince the committee that they were not being irresponsible, but that sticking a pin in a chart with a population figure for 1971 and with no earlier statistical information, made precise predictions impossible. In any case, the more precise the prediction the more likely it would be to be wrong.

So, instead of a traditional master plan concept, each city's plan was prepared as a flexible strategy able to respond to changes during its implementation. However, it was agreed that the roads and essential services — water, sewerage, electricity and telecommunications — should be designed to meet the maximum growth targets. This became the key to the next five years' development.

By 1973 each city had an approved plan with what was, at that time, ambitious prospects. The second national five-year development plan for 1975-80 was in preparation, and its implementation, backed by ever increasing oil revenues, led to a boom in the mid 1970s. Jiddah received the brunt of this dynamic and dramatic growth. The city's growth rate reached a peak at about 16 per cent a year and averaged 13 to 14 per cent over this period, a doubled rate in five to six years.

This gave Jiddah the distinction of being one of the fastest growing cities in the world. In place of this growth in the context of a programme of providing essential services (taken for granted in Western cities) and you have some idea of the magnitude of the task the city had to cope with. The amount of water required to meet this population increase was immense. Jiddah One, the desalination plant recently opened and a landmark in the desert by the sea at that time — was followed and dwarfed by Jiddah Two, Three and now Four.

In 1972 desalination provided five million gallons of water and 50 MW of power a day. When Jiddah Four opens, 75 million gallons of water and 850 MW of power will be available. It was a similar uphill fight to provide new roads and multi-level intersections (80 are completed or under construction) to cope with the traffic growth. The sewerage, electricity and telecommunications systems likewise underwent great rapid expansion. So great were the pressures that the Municipality Co-ordinating Committee, under the chair-



The old city of Jiddah before its fortified wall foreground left was pulled down in the late 1940s. Right: the city today.

manship of the mayor, Shaikh Mohammed Said Farsi, used to meet daily.

Today this frenetic rate of growth has abated. Three years ago RMJM's low population target for 1991 was passed and plans for a city of two million are now approaching reality. Consultants seldom see their plans realized because the funding and expropriation to achieve them proceed at a snail's pace. The opposite has been true here.

Progress and preservation

Mainly because of the impetus and concern of the mayor, a major attempt has been and continues to be made to create an Arab city of the twentieth century. This no doubt sounds a contradiction in terms as, for example, the car and its attendant highways are far removed from the scale and environment of the historic Arab city. This is centred on the mosque, the suk, or market place, and merchant family homes designed to give privacy, shade and enclosure, all tightly clustered around narrow, often canopied, alleyways.

But the essence of this lifestyle — the home and family where relations and friends meet and entertain one another, the public separation, in schools for example, of the sexes, the lack of theatres or cinemas (this is why home video television is so popular) — is, and will remain, a reminder that this conservative and religious society wishes to preserve a way of life consistent with both history and progress. Expatriates must understand and respect this way of life if they wish to come to terms with living in Jiddah.

Applying this understanding to the built environment is no easy task. As well as preparing the master plan and many detailed studies, RMJM carried out two projects, the development of the sea-coast and the conservation of the old city, in

which these social and cultural values could be considered and applied.

Corniche creates interest

Jiddah has been termed the Bride of the Red Sea. Development in the 1950s and 1960s had turned its back to the sea. With large areas of shallow water made stagnant and oppressive by the lack of tidal movement, reclamation was first mooted in the master plan and with it, came the opportunity to create recreational areas and make the best use of open spaces. This concept was developed in the detailed plan prepared for more than 120km of coastline, including Sharm Obhur, the 7km deepwater, natural fissure 35km north of the city centre.

The backbone of the corniche design was a recreational road, landscaped and moulded into contours created to relieve the totally flat landscape. Where the shallow shelf between the land and the 30 metre deep reef allowed, the road curved into the sea. The central divide between the carriage ways was varied in width to give interest and allow landscaping, including sea water pools and fountains. This route served a linked series of small picnic and parking areas and, occasionally, small centres comprising a marina, beach houses, cafes and restaurants and a mosque.

The northern arm of the corniche was to some extent affected by the existing seaside villas and compounds, but the open areas, and particularly the reclaimed areas, allowed large areas of public open space to be created. The southern sector was less developed and a more imaginative and creative plan could be achieved. It is envisaged that part of this southern sector will become a city by the sea, with marinas, hotels and holiday homes available to the people of Mecca as well as those of Jiddah, as the completion of the motorway between Mecca and Jiddah will vastly assist travel between the two cities.

This new route will also help to open up the southern part of Jiddah. The central sector of the corniche

achieved two vital city functions. Reclamation allowed the central business area to expand seawards instead of eastwards into the old remaining historic core, and new cross-city roads, car parking and open spaces could also be established. The central and northern sectors are nearing completion, and a start has been made on building towards the south.

The emphasis on small open spaces for picnicking and children's play, rather than on massive recreational features or development, was deliberate. It allows and encourages families to drive from their homes to a sheltered spot by the sea to sit, eat and relax, one of the elements of a stable society and consistent with the traditional pattern of Islamic family life.

Old city and its conservation

The impact of this tremendous growth on the old historic city was inevitably severe. However, large groups of old buildings still survived. Only a slight touch of imagination is necessary in these areas to visualize the scenes described by Burton and T. E. Lawrence — the latter gives a brief but vivid account of Jiddah in *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. As it happened, to a large extent these areas survived by the driving of a dual carriageway through the old city in 1955. This acted as a boundary line to separate the multi-storey new developments in the business district west of the new road, towards the sea, from the relative backwater to the east.

The municipality recognized, however, that a complete study was required for the old city area and RMJM started this in 1979. There were two main objectives. First, to ensure, as set out in the master plan, that the central area would remain the principal business, shopping and commercial centre of Jiddah and, second, to protect and conserve the social and physical fabric of the remaining historic areas.

The building by building survey (including a photographic record) showed that more than 1,000 traditional coral limestone structures, many with ornately carved wooden bay windows, lattice-work balconies, casements and roof-top terraces, still

survived. These were mainly two to four storey town houses interspersed with merchant palaces, mosques, caravanserais and a school, set along a system of narrow alleyways and small irregular open spaces. It still comes as a surprise to those who visit or live in Jiddah to find this immensely rich heritage.

Of the four courses of action submitted, the municipality boldly elected to develop the one which offered the greatest conservation gain. Now, 537 historic buildings, in five conservation areas covering a total of almost 60 hectares, have been designated for protection and enhancement. A new municipality office, under the direction of Amr Darwish, the leader of the RMJM Saudi team during the study, has been established

and strict regulations control all aspects of conservation houses interspersed with the merchant palaces, mosques, caravanserais and a school, set along a system of narrow alleyways and small irregular open spaces. It still comes as a surprise to those who visit or live in Jiddah to find this immensely rich heritage.

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Jiddah — The Open Air Museum is the title of a calendar for 1981. The wealth of sculptures, fountains, gardens, and planting associated with new roads is transforming Jiddah from a city with only one tree — still standing at the entrance to the most famous of Jiddah's merchant family homes, the Nassif House — to a green and spacious city. Henry Moore sculptures adorn the lagoon corniche

bridge in the city centre, vast and illuminated water flows into the lagoon in front of a guest palace; a fountain nears completion the roundabout as the centre is entered from north, and, at or throughout the city, sculptures, terraces, gardens are rising step by step. Cynical observers dismiss these as frills. They are not. Within context of so many mental pressures, it have been too easy to lose sight of quality grace in shaping the city. The mayor is an architect and city planner. This ground coupled with foresight, has taken through a tumultuous future.

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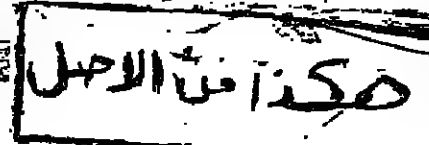
Load Centres 2-3-4: Mechanical installation of 22 chillers, associated piping, air-conditioning, fire protection systems and building automation systems.

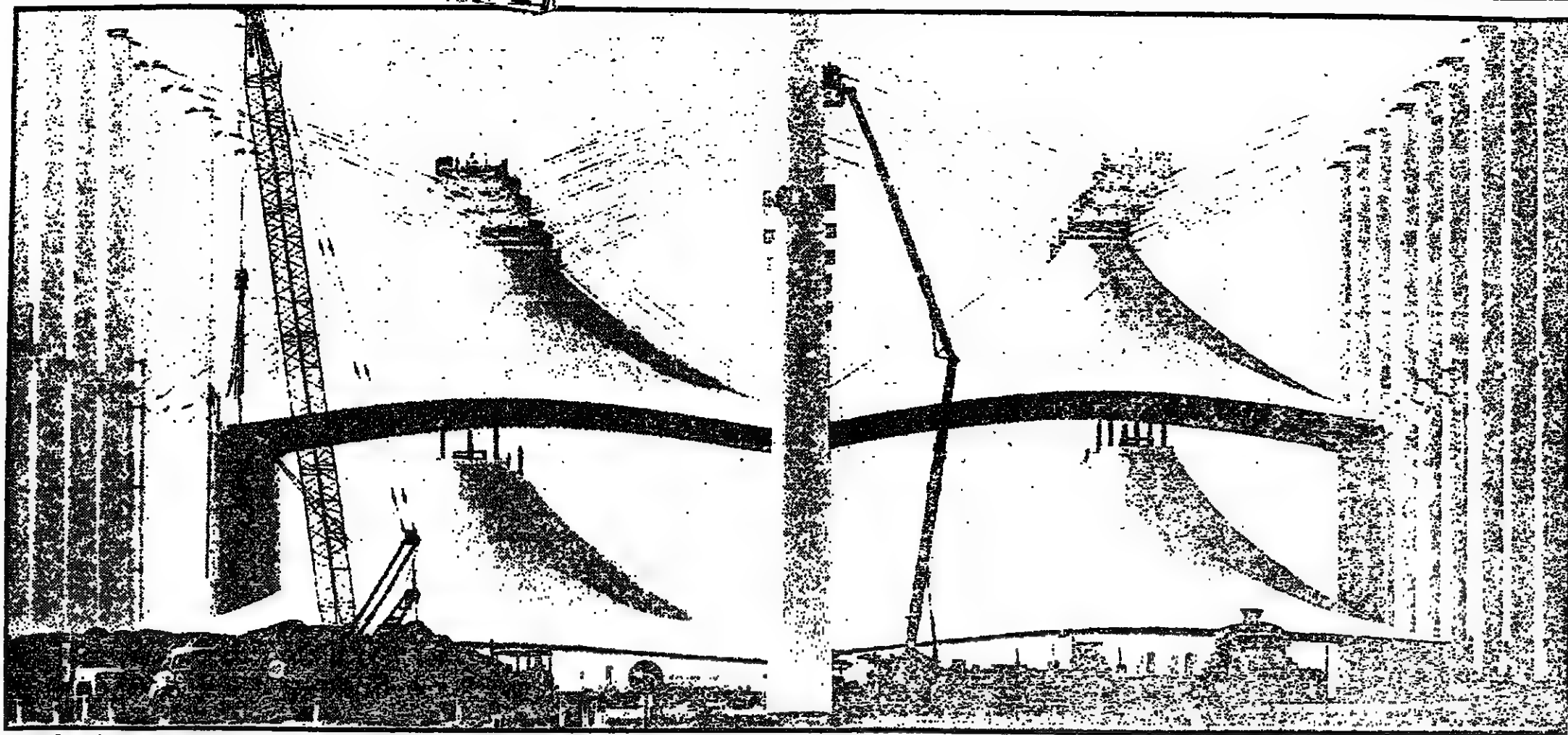
Haj Terminal Complex: Electrical installation HV, LV, power, lighting and fire alarm.

Outside Cable Plant, Phase II: In consortium with A.E.G. Telefunken for the supply and installation of 1000 Km. of HV cables.

3 Manpower employed: about 120 Italian expatriates and 200 workers from Zaïre.

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Parabol roofs being hoisted on to the Haj terminal.

Construction

Delays and overdesign contribute to huge cost

In spite of its many impressive features, the new Jeddah international airport is not without critics among contractors to Saudi Arabia. Its extraordinary cost causes the most persistent comment. Between the airport's conception in the early 1960s and its official opening later this month, at least \$5,000m will have been spent on construction work.

Further facilities are to be built at the site in the 1980s, including a Royal Saudi Air Force base, a Saudi maintenance building, a hospital, further desalination units and general aviation facilities. This could push the final bill for the airport as high as \$10,000m.

As a senior executive with Parsons Daniel, the company managing the construction, commented in early 1980, it may not be the biggest construction project the

world has seen, but it is probably the most expensive. In addition to the lengthy delays in getting work going, at least two other factors contributed significantly to the project's huge final cost. The first was the tendency for foreign architects to overdesign the facilities to be built at the airport. The emergence of locally-owned consulting companies conscious of Saudi needs and of the constraints on construction in the kingdom's harsh environment will help to prevent a repetition of this difficulty.

The second was the lack of trained engineers in government departments with the skills to monitor and criticize how the project was being designed and put into effect. Contractors say that the number of technical staff in Saudi government departments has grown dramati-

cally in recent years. This has increased the kingdom's ability to get value for money in other public sector construction projects. Jeddah airport's costly lessons have been absorbed, ensuring that spending on other big projects has been kept within reasonable bounds. Tarek Shawaf of Saudconault, one of the first Saudi-owned consultancies working in the kingdom, says. As a result, there will be a "fantastic disparity" between the cost of building Jeddah airport, and the new international airports in Riyadh and Dhahran, to be completed in the 1980s. "We have learnt the lesson", he adds.

The Jeddah airport was planned in what has become the standard Saudi way of handling huge turnkey projects. A consultant was appointed to act as manager for construction work, in this case the joint venture Company Parsons Daniel. This is owned by Saudi investors and two American companies. Daniel International Corporation and Ralph M. Parsons. The latter is also a partner in Saudi Arabian Parsons, which manages the massive Yanbu industrial city project on the Red Sea.

As contractors hurried to meet deadlines in late 1980 and early 1981, more than 11,000 men were working on site. More than 70 contractors from 35 countries were involved in a variety of capacities. A 200 cubic metre-a-day prestressed concrete manufacturing plant worked flat out to meet contractor's demands for building materials.

The airport's main features are its three terminals. The Haj terminal, being built by the West Germany firm of

Hochtief to designs by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, was an international talking point well before its parabol roofs were hoisted into place. The south terminal, designed by Edward Durrell Stone of the United States, was the first to be finished. Also built by Hochtief, it has high convex roof sections, built mainly from cast-in-place concrete. The terminal forms one side of a courtyard, which is also surrounded by a mosque, airport offices and an hotel. It will be used exclusively by Saudi passengers.

The smallest terminal is sited in the north of the airport close to the Haj building. Built by Hochtief and designed by Edward Durrell Stone, it is to be used by passengers travelling with other airlines.

Lying midway between the northern and southern terminals is the \$100m Royal Pavilion building. It was designed by Minoru Yamasaki of the United States, architect for New York's World Trade Centre. Features include a solid copper roof and an approach road lined with palms, specially flown in for the project.

A range of international contractors were responsible for other important elements of the airport. A French consortium, Sotetex Engineering, built the hangar to accommodate the Royal Family's Boeing 747s. Japan's Sumitomo is building the giant desalination plant and Petrol International of Greece installed the underground fuel pipes.

As more of the airport is completed, new problems will emerge. The first is the enormous amount of foreign manpower, both skilled and unskilled, that will be needed to operate and maintain the buildings and services in the airport.

The second is providing insurance cover for the project. Despite Islamic strictures about insurance, a contract has been awarded to Ghath Pharaoh's United Commercial Agencies (UCA) to arrange cover for Jeddah. If it is handled in the same way as it was for the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, the business will be delegated to Saudi-controlled offshore insurance companies. Sensitivity about this whole issue is likely to mean that the final insurance value of the airport will never be revealed.

Edmund O'Sullivan

Staffing worry

Having one of the world's most advanced, computerized airports on their soil is going to cause acute manpower problems for the Saudis. Because of the small indigenous population and the lack of necessary skills, the country's development schemes are already heavily dependent on foreigners. The new airport will increase this dependence.

When in full operation the airport will need about 11,000 staff. This figure may rise to 15,000 by 1985. The Haj terminal will use additional staff for the 10-week Haj period. Saudization is a keynote of the new five-year plan, especially in such spheres as oil, Saudi (the national airline), and the new airport. However, the Saudis are going to be unable to fulfil such staff requirements themselves.

Last year the Saudi Civil Aviation Presidency prepared an extensive study on the manpower difficulties of the new airport and submitted it to the Government. The result has been that about 150 Saudis are studying some branch of airport management abroad, largely in the United States and West Germany, sponsored by the American managing contractor, Parsons Daniel, and the airport construction company, Hochtief of West Germany.

Hochtief, which has built the entire complex with the aid of about 50 sub-contractors, has already won the maintenance contract for the airport during the next five years. About 2,500 Europeans are living in the Hochtief village on the site, a figure which is expected to be maintained until 1985. Parsons Daniel has a large staff but its number will be reduced as the various phases of the airport are completed.

Cleaning contracts have been won by South Korean firms, which will be housing their staff at a labour camp on the site. The rest of the airport staff hired by the Saudis are expected to be Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. There are more than 3,000 workers from the sub-continent on the site.

The airport authorities are keen to have Saudis occupying all the top management posts by 1985 but this will prove difficult given the complexities of the airport, the shortage of Saudis and the high drop-out rate of those who are going abroad for training.

Foreign manpower is expected to remain crucial to the airport's running for some time, with Americans, West Germans, Italians and Britons working in the managerial and technical

Jamal Rasheed

Shrubs and flowers transform desert

The site of the new airport consists of 40 square miles of stony desert which may be whipped up by high winds into ferocious sandstorms, a hazard to any air traffic. To counteract this, and to make the airport look less bleak, the Saudis have given huge contracts to landscape companies to turn the area into a permanent green belt.

Under a landscape and soil stabilization programme, 72,000 trees will be planted around the airport perimeter. An underground supply of recycled and cooled waste water from the airport buildings will nurture them, each small group of trees having its individual supply. A 100-hectare nursery has been set up on the airport grounds. It will produce 15,000 trees a year, making it one of the largest nurseries in the Middle East.

Two and a half million flowers and shrubs have already been planted, and reinforcement from the nursery will be introduced over the next few years. A green, rapidly spreading plant that requires only two waterings a year has been chosen for cultivation in both the outer areas and alongside the runways, to prevent soil erosion. Eventually the airport will be the most concentrated belt of greenery around Jeddah, and it is expected to affect the climate of the city.

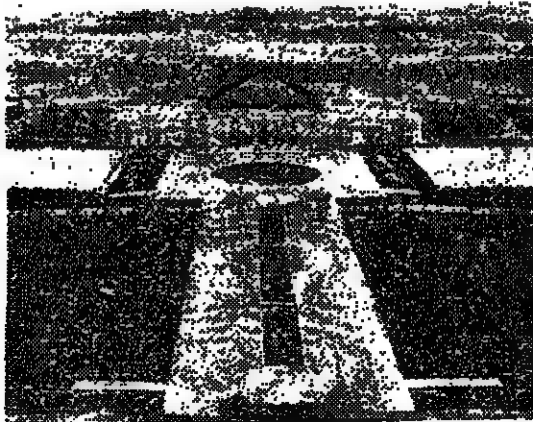
The airport has benefited from research carried out in the United States to produce desert shrubbery that can withstand harsh wind, blown sand, and lack of water. Some plants are being tested at the airport nursery for use elsewhere in Saudi Arabia, especially for the airports planned for Riyadh and the Eastern Province.

The gardens around the terminal buildings have been designed by Islamic landscape artists from many parts of the world. They embody the traditional designs seen in the miniature paintings of India and Iran, the gardens of Baghdad and Damascus during the period of the famous Arabian Nights, and the Moorish gardens of North Africa. A stream, fountain or waterfall is usually the centrepiece.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Defence & Aviation and Inspectorate General announce the Inauguration of The New King Abdul Aziz International Airport Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

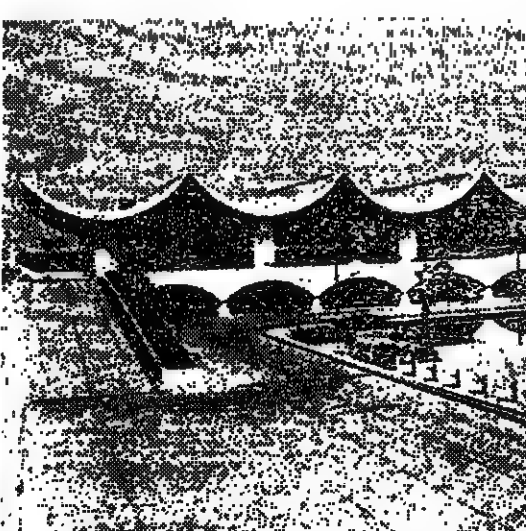
The International Airports Projects of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formed in 1976 as an arm of the Ministry of Defence and Aviation under the leadership of His Royal Highness, Prince Sultan.

The mission of the IAP is to plan and build airport facilities vital to the continued social progress and economic growth of the Kingdom. It is headed by Brigadier General Said Yousef Amin, who serves as Director.



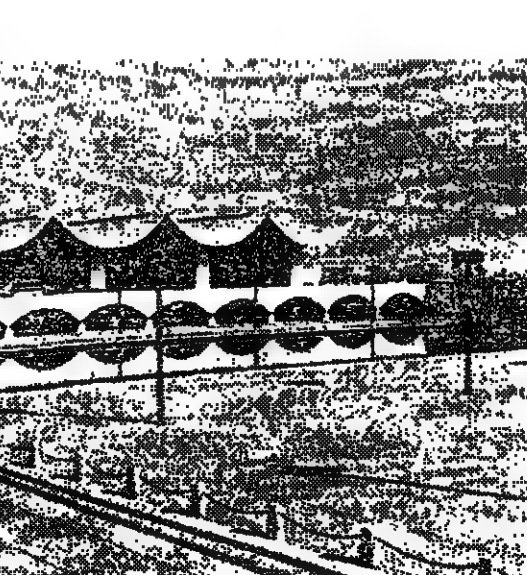
Currently, IAP is opening one new International Airport and building another. The new King Abdul Aziz International is located at Jeddah. King Khalid International is being built near Riyadh, Capital City of Saudi Arabia. At the same time, planning is underway for a third new airport in the Eastern Province.

The airport projects are part of the Kingdom's development program being led by His Majesty, King Khalid, His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Fahad, and His Royal Highness, Prince Abdullah, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard.



The three new airports are destined to play a major role in the overall transportation program of the Kingdom and will help the Kingdom fulfill the goals established by the King and the Council of Ministers in the Five Year Development Programs.

Work on KAIA began in 1974 during the reign of the late King Faisal. That same year, initial planning began on the second of the three airports being constructed by IAP—King Khalid International.



Work on KKIA is now over 30 percent complete and the airport is tentatively scheduled to open in 1983.

It will also serve as a gateway to the big shipping terminal at Ras Tanura, the world's largest oil port. EPIA is still in the planning stages and no date has been set for the start of construction.

Both KAIA and KKIA have master plans which provide not only for current needs but also set aside space for future needs. The design and location of the airports are such that the impact of noise, air pollution and congestion will be reduced to a minimum.

IAP is "tracking" current needs and projecting future needs by computer in order to assure that additional airport facilities are available as the Kingdom's needs continue to grow.

All three airports will stimulate growth in the private sector of the economy. They will generate thousands of new jobs related to the air transportation industry.

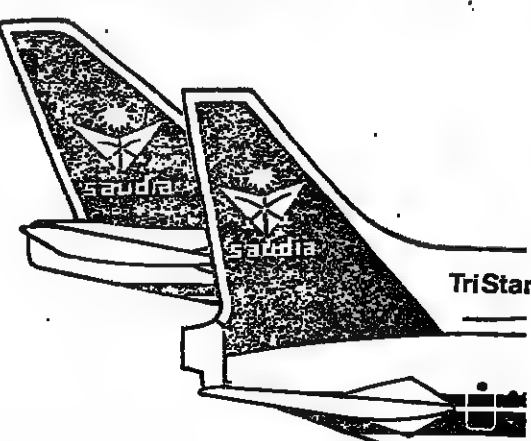
Not only jobs with airlines but in other fields as well, including air cargo handling, food service, air traffic control, ground transportation, hotel operations and merchandising.

In addition to being centers of economic activity and operating air terminals, the airports will be places of beauty. Their designs are true to Islamic architectural traditions and they compliment the natural beauty of the desert that surrounds them.

It is the goal of the IAP to provide a balanced, systems approach to meeting the Kingdom's air transportation needs.

IAP is a service organization whose personnel are dedicated to providing well-designed and well-operated facilities. As General Amin points out: "We must care not only about the function of the buildings but also about the beauty of the buildings and their relationship to the Saudi environment."

By playing a role in raising the standard of the facilities provided to the citizens of the Kingdom and their guests, IAP also plays a role in raising the standard of living in the Kingdom.



For color brochures describing the new King Abdul Aziz International Airport please write: PUBLIC RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECTS, P.O. BOX 6526, JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

Gentlemen:
Please send color brochures describing the new airport to:

NAME

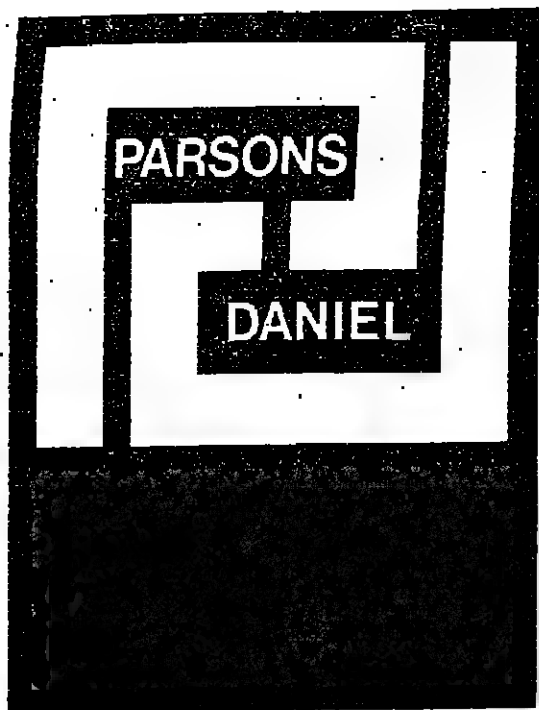
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The third airport scheduled for construction by the IAP will be located near the Arabian Gulf on a site near the cities of Dhahran and Dammam. The New Eastern Province Airport will serve the big new industrial complex, port and naval base at Jubail.

The religious environment of the Kingdom will be evident at each airport. Mosques in each terminal building will offer peace and tranquility for Muslim faithful who turn each day toward Mecca to pray.

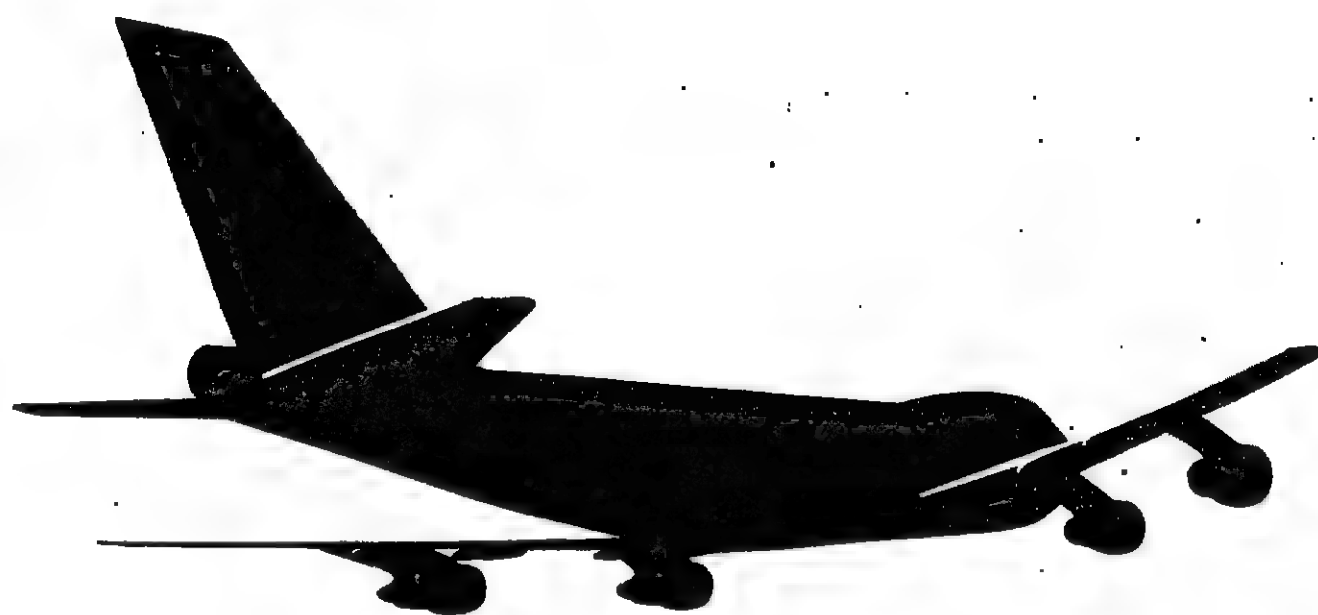
Both KAIA and KKIA are being built to operate in the most efficient manner possible, utilizing the latest in airport technology.



Saudi Arabian Parsons Ltd. and Daniel International (Saudi Arabia) Ltd. A Joint Venture

CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

King Abdulaziz International Airport Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



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member countries, particularly Germany, France and the Kingdom. The quotas under the Canadian consituted an essential discussions for quota council shows that the existence of thousands of EEC citizens is on the line the Council sees its separate ways. Mr Robert Battersby (Humburside, ED) said that he wanted to protest historic fishing rights of some countries. They should respect other peoples rights to be able to survive and their fishermen work, and have a good look at his

with the Executive, under the Commission will be able to contribute to the genesis of a fisheries policy. I hope that the political will is there to achieve it.

The debate concluded.

the other, voyages made and about a per cent of wealth in the

The irony of the attempt on Mr Reagan's life is that his popularity is now higher than ever—but how long will the sympathy last and who are the key men he must rely on? Geoffrey Smith reports from Washington



President Reagan with his advisers Jim Baker (left) and Ed Meese, key figures in the administration.

The rise of the White House professionals

What will be the lasting effects on the Reagan administration of the shooting of the President? Sympathy for the wounded victim is naturally strong and widespread, but that will not continue indefinitely. Respect for a man who can conduct himself with such poise in a crisis will endure. But what will be the political consequences of this new respect?

Much will depend on how long the President is incapacitated. There has been some anxiety in the White House that, in the eagerness to minimize alarm over Mr Reagan's condition, expectations for his speedy recovery may have been raised too high.

He may not be completely back in harness for quite a few months. At all events, the longer he is unable to exert himself to the full the less likely it is that the Reagan ideal of cabinet government will ever be realized. It probably never would have been any.

The American system of government, with the pre-eminence of the President and his consequent need for strong advisers in the White House, makes it difficult to have collective cabinet-making power in their respective fields to individual cabinet members.

on anything approaching the British scale. Mr Reagan's relaxed style of governing had made him, even before the shooting, more than usually dependent on close advisers to coordinate his administration. Mr Ed Meese, the Counsel to the President and Mr James Baker, the Chief of Staff at the White House, had already emerged as key figures. Now they will be even more so.

Access to Mr Reagan is bound to be limited for a while, and they will have a high proportion of whatever time he can devote to discussing government business. He will now be all the more dependent on their information and advice.

His decision will be filtered through them to their colleagues in the administration, to Congress and to the general public—and Mr Meese and Mr Baker will necessarily exercise their own judgment. That would probably have happened anyway, but whereas it might have led to criticism, it is now more likely to be accepted as a necessity.

A personal respect for Mr Reagan will further blunt whatever criticism there might be. The shooting will therefore magnify a tendency that was already apparent.

The same can be said of the administration's relations with Congress. These have from the

start been much better than Mr Carter ever enjoyed. This is partly a matter of personal style. Mr Carter's sanctimonious air never went down well with those accustomed to the men's club atmosphere on Capitol Hill.

Mr Reagan has been much more at home with them, even though he has had no previous experience of Washington. This personal popularity will now be all the greater, which is no small thing in a political system where personalities usually count for more than party.

This administration's better relations with Congress can also be attributed to the greater air of professionalism in the Reagan White House. There was always an element of small town amateurishness about the Carter operation. On one occasion Mr Hamilton Jordan, Carter's chief of staff, decided that he needed to improve relations with Congress and sought the aid of Mr Tip O'Neill, the Speaker of the House and one of the most powerful men on Capitol Hill. Jordan came a message from an O'Neill aide that the Speaker would be happy to receive Mr Jordan in his office at the suggested time. "Fine," said the volunteer in Mr Jordan's office who took the call, "and what's the Speaker's name please?"

It would be impossible to imagine that sort of blundering in the office of the present chief of staff, Mr Baker. Members of Congress are themselves professionals who expect to deal with professionals in the White House. The great ascendancy of the White House professionals after the shooting of the President will certainly not hinder relations with Congress.

Another reason why these relations are better now than in the past is that there is for the moment greater accord on policy between the President and Congress. There is now a Republican majority in the Senate and the Republicans are considerably stronger in the House, so that together with a group of some 40 conservative Democrats they can hope to have a majority there as well.

It can never be taken for granted in American politics, of course, that a potential majority according to party alignments will yield an actual majority in practice. But one of the features of the new Congress is the way in which the Republicans are sticking together in a fashion that makes an observer of the British parliamentary scene feel remarkably at home.

This is partly because they have for so long been an important minority in Congress that they wanted to make the

most of their new strength. Nearly all of them also happen to agree with the President's programme of public expenditure cuts. So do most of the conservative Democrats.

Mr Reagan's enhanced popularity has made it easier for him to vote for his programme, and harder for those few Republicans who disagree with it to break ranks. He is therefore, generally expected in Washington to achieve a very high proportion of the spending cuts he seeks.

It is different with the tax cuts he proposes. Mr Reagan wants to secure the full Kemp-Roth plan he wants for a reduction in personal taxes to 10 per cent a year for three years. He is thought likely to win agreement now to a cut only for one year, possibly for less than the total he would like and in a different form—more incentives for saving and investment and less reduction in personal taxation across the board.

The conservative Democrats are not so enamoured of this part of the President's economic package, which they fear might be inflationary. Nor are a number of Republicans prepared to fight so hard for tax reductions as for cuts in government spending.

Overall, though, Mr Reagan will probably secure Congressional approval for enough of

his economic measures for this to be accounted a considerable political success. So long as economic policy remains the principal theme of his administration in domestic matters, as it is at the moment, his Republican support in Congress is likely to remain firm.

But it is liable to split once he moves to social policy and tries to satisfy the requirements of the Moral Majority on abortion and school prayers, for example. At the moment, these issues are well down the administration's list of priorities and the longer they remain so the easier will Mr Reagan's relations be with Congress. The shooting and his increased popularity should give him an extra period of grace.

For some time, therefore, the shooting should lead to the Reagan presidency being conducted even more in the style in which it would have been run anyway, to still better relations with Congress and possibly to the postponement of those policy initiatives which would most divide his support. But the critical question remains how long he will be incapacitated.

It is one of the harsh rules of American politics that no president can live for ever on his early popularity; it has to be earned and re-earned.

When charity begins to get complicated

It was easier for St Paul than it was for the Charity Commissioners. When required to make a judgment whether an organization in pursuit of tax advantages is a charity or not, they cannot simply ask themselves whether it suffers long and is kind, envious not, vainglorious not, is not puffed up, and amounts to more than sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. It may be lucky for some well-publicized appeals that the Commissioners have to apply different criteria. The case of the Moonies has only directed attention once again to an area of law so complex, obscure and contentious that for many years governments seem to have been concerned above all to avoid stirring up the dust.

The Commissioners are regular butts for criticism. Their initial response to the Moonies trial gave a clear impression of rushing to avoid judgment, unbecoming to a quasi-judicial body. The law gives them wide powers to investigate charities, to make decisions on appeals, to make orders, and to strike bodies off their register (subject to appeal to the High Court). But it is true that a rigid and partly obsolete body of case law restricts their discretion.

Nor do they set out to guarantee the merits of the charities they register. "Registration is not an indication that we approve of a charity's objects; nor that we are satisfied about the integrity of the trustees or the methods by which it pur-

poses its objects, provided that these are lawful," they declare with typical caution. In a plural society it would not be easy to set simple and consistent standards for what charitable activity ought to be. Nor do the Commissioners have the resources to regulate the activities of 132,000 charities comprehensively.

The three commissioners, appointed by the Home Secretary, are in charge of 330 staff. The Commissioners must by law be lawyers except the chief commissioner who by custom is a retired civil servant. The present head, Mr Terence Fitzgerald, was formerly an assistant under-secretary at the Home Office.

The legal formula for determining whether a charity is a charity dates back in essence to within a few decades of when St Paul's definition was given its English form. The notorious statute of 1501, worked over by generations of lawyers, has pro-

duced a set of criteria which are much debated but remarkably serviceable in practice. The formula could be given a tidier statutory form. But it is not the fault of the formula, but of our conception of a charity that accounts for much of the picturesque and controversial character of the register of charities. There is little beyond a tolerantly applied idea of general public benefit evidently in common between Eton College, West of Wales, the United Protestant League, the United Church, and trusts for improving the efficiency of the armed services. Yet societies with apparently like claims to benefit society, like Amnesty International and the Racialist Society, are excluded.

The tax advantages of charitable status are great. The Moonies might lose half their income (£1.7m in 1979-80) if they were struck off. It is no expensive to contest the Com-



Sun Myung Moon, leader of the Unification Church, whose case drew attention to the anomalies of charity law.

mission's rulings in court that most charities are obliged to accept its recommendations as to conduct. As well as deciding whether bodies qualify for inclusion on the register, the Commission seeks to weed out fraud and incompetence.

They have done much valuable work since 1960, in raising standards and compiling a register for the first time. Their

The case of the Moonies has directed once again attention to an area of law so complex... that for years governments have been concerned above all to avoid stirring up the dust

recent advice to the trustees of Thomas Moore's charity, may serve as an example. In 1713 Moore bequeathed the value of "six hundred pounds of coal to the poor of the parish of Tooting Graveney, if any, now receive. In 1931 the cash value of this was assessed at £10.25, and the gift remained at that level until the Commissioners pointed out to the trustees that a children's school, as every school knows, is somewhat larger than a coalmine. It actually holds 251 hundredweight, a useful quantity.

So the poor of Tooting Graveney, if any, now receive £3,885 a year. The trustees of the neighbourhood parish probably enjoy no such bounty, which may or may not seem fair. Many millions of pounds up and down the country are tied up in charities which are inactive or without an appropriate object.

The most awkward problems for the Commissioners are created by cases like the Moonies and by political bodies. Unlike the Moonies, who are religious sects, these are not religious sects present no problems to the Commissioners who take in their stride faith healing and exorcism. But sects with very strong

internal disciplines are another matter. Several such cases have vexed the Commissioners in recent years. "Our statutory powers are not designed to deal with the situation," they said plaintively in 1976. "So far we have received no evidence to show that the converts have not joined the organization of their own free will, or that their subsequent activities are not training is carried out by force."

That seems to take too little account of psychological pressures, and also perhaps rather a passive attitude to the receiving of evidence, which the Commission has powers to summon for itself. But it must be right to attach high importance to the freedom of adults to submit themselves to forms of worship that may seem strange or even repugnant to outsiders. Denominations that appear attractive to outsiders in every particular are rare.

The best criterion—which the Commissioners applied in the case of the Exclusive Brethren in 1974—must be an assessment of whether the sect's activities in general are significantly against the public good. The breaking of family ties and exercise of undue psychological

pressure would appear relevant to that. Political activity by charities is not forbidden by the Commissioners. It is hard to see how it could be, in the broad sense. Many charities, like the Howard League and the Lord's Day Observance Society, exist principally to affect public opinion. Lobbying is allowed so long as it is auxiliary to the charity's main purpose. The Commissioners set their faces against overt party politics and direct attempts to influence elections.

Bodies which narrowly fail to gain acceptance, or have to temper activities that they consider integral to their purpose, may be bitterly aggrieved. But it would be impossible to extend charitable tax concessions to the whole field of political activity. The public may swallow a tax exemption, but scarcely a tax concession for Communist Party. One solution might be an intermediate status for the more controversial charities, with a lower rate of tax relief. That would create more borderlines, but the penalties for finding oneself on the wrong side of them would not be steep.

George Hill

DIARY FROM 'FREE LEBANON'

If a modern day Alice were to step through a Middle Eastern looking glass, she would probably find herself very much at home in the self-styled "Republic of Free Lebanon". A bizarre example of cooperation between Arabs and Jews, the Israeli-backed buffer zone stretches for 60 miles through the rugged South Lebanese countryside from the shores of the Mediterranean to the foothills of snow-capped Mount Hermon.

"Free Lebanon" is a place where many of the 100,000 Arab residents speak Hebrew, where Arab militiamen wear Israeli Army uniforms, and where Israeli soldiers move freely, speak Arabic and often inform visiting journalists (whom they are escorting) that they are not really there anyway. In its shops, smuggled liquor and cigarettes are retailed at one-third of normal prices and although the majority of the population is Muslim, the Voice of Hope, the local radio station, broadcasts a blend of country and western music interspersed with readings from the Old Testament. Among Palestinian guerrillas situated in bases a few miles to the north on the other side of the Litani river, it is commonly referred to as "The Voice of Death".

In keeping with the all-pervading Ruritanian atmosphere, the undisputed commander of this bizarre region is often referred to as "The President". In fact, he is a renegade major from the Lebanese Army who was finally captured in 1979 when the region was formally declared an independent state, complete with its own flag—the green cedar of Lebanon sewn next to the blue Israeli Star of David.

Hated and ridiculed by many, including most of the United Nations Forces stationed on peacekeeping duties in South Lebanon, Major Haddad is regarded in some quarters as a laudable Lebanese patriot struggling to save a minority population which sees itself threatened with extinction. He is probably the only Arab to be genuinely admired by the majority of ordinary Israelis, although there are others—including some security experts in Israel—who regard him as a dangerous creation. While one Israeli military correspondent recently described him as a "Frankenstein" over whom Israel no longer exercised the necessary control, the Mayor of

New York, Mr Ed Koch said after a meeting with the Major that he had "never met a man as brave or as admirable". The beginning of the symbiotic relationship between Israel and the South Lebanese militia can be traced back to 1976, although some see the idea stretching back further. In evidence they cite a remarkably prescient observation made by Moshe Dayan in 1954, when he was still Israeli Chief of Staff. According to the diaries of Israel's former Prime Minister, Moshe Sharett, Mr Dayan told a private meeting that: "The only thing that is necessary is to find an officer, even just a Major. We should either win his heart or buy him with money, to make him agree to declare himself the saviour of the Maronite (Christian) population. Then the Israeli Army will enter Lebanon, will occupy the necessary territory, and will create a Christian regime which will ally itself with Israel. The territory from the Litani southward will be totally annexed by Israel and everything will be all right."

As it was, nothing concrete was done until one night in 1976 when an anonymous note was left stuck in the heavy security

fence running along Israel's northern border. The next morning, an Israeli patrol found the note and as a result the first meeting took place between Israeli troops and an obscure Lebanese officer. It led to the evacuation into Israel of soldiers and civilians wounded in the Civil War then raging and later, to the first meeting with a Greek Orthodox who was then a captain in the Lebanese Army, Saad Haddad.

From then, the strip of territory now known as "Free Lebanon" began to take on its own peculiar identity, financed

and supported by Israel and always personified to the outside world by the 43-year-old Major. Unlike the regulars in his 3,000-strong force, Major Haddad always wears a Lebanese uniform, complete with a large peak cap and a chunky automatic pistol prominently displayed on his right hip.

Most of his meetings with journalists and foreign dignitaries take place at an unprepossessing Israeli border hotel called the Arizim. Unfazed guests are frequently surprised to see his Israeli-supplied Jeep screech to a halt in front of the

pario. Surrounded by two or three subordinates, the mountaineer Major strides across to the hotel where he keeps a large map to deliver briefings to foreign visitors about the combined Palestinian and Syrian threat to Lebanon. Fluent in English, French, Arabic and Hebrew, he is not without his own particular brand of humour. He refers to the UN troops in the UN peacekeeping force as "the Johnny Walkers" because he claims they are often drunk. Asked recently for his opinion of the new Irish commander of the UN Force, General Callaghan, the Major replied with a grin: "I would say he is a fairly typical colonial soldier."

Like almost everything connected with "Free Lebanon", Major Haddad's private life is a paradox: at home away from the daily violence—for which his men are largely responsible—he lives a domesticated family life with his wife and six daughters. Even his most bitter opponent is unable to find evidence of the financial corruption usually associated with such absolute power—even if

it is only extended over 140 square miles of territory. The Major's power is exercised through militia forces—whose presence at road blocks and check points give "Free Lebanon" a superficial appearance of order that disguises the anarchy and lawlessness. Although there is one court—vaguely described as "part military, part civil"—little is heard of its deliberations. Dressed in an improbable assortment of military fatigues, often complete with wide-brimmed hats, Haddad's fighters are the twentieth century version of the cowboy.

At every turn, the physical appearance of "Free Lebanon" displays sorry evidence of the vicious fighting which has dominated its existence in recent years. In some villages, every house still standing is deeply scarred with bullet holes, while in others the narrow roads are pockmarked by recent shell or rocket attacks. In the towns, particularly the market centre of Bint Jebel (until 1978 a noted Palestinian stronghold) there is something of the devil-may-care attitude which affects all societies at times of war: the Arab women are noticeably more open than

their counterparts in Arab countries, smuggled goods abound and cars bear astonishing variety of multi-plates or, in some cases, plates at all.

As befitts a "republic" no government, no elections, police and no official "Free Lebanon" has very services of its own. Most of water is supplied free by Israel, while much of the electricity comes from Lebanon proper, and free of charge. In the Major Haddad has been keen to use his heavy artillery, provide an unusable reminder of his presence if any attack is made to cut the electricity supplies.

Although shelling, rocket attacks and shooting are a daily occurrence, there are occasional signs—such as recently opened shops and a slight semblance of normality is beginning to return. With the United Nations commander now on record as determined to fulfil his mandate and restore Lebanese sovereignty, the future remains uncertain—and as uncertain as ever.

Christopher Wall

Why auction ring law has tied itself into a knot

Yesterday's decision by Mr Evelyn Russell, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, that Thomas Agnew's and Sons, the Bond Street art dealers, were not guilty of infringing the Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act 1927 will tend to render the Act even more of a dead letter than it is already. In the 53 years that this piece of law has been on the statute book, no successful prosecution has ever been brought under it.

What is more, the particular practice which it was intended to outlaw—the combination of dealers in an auction ring—has survived and flourished ever since. Where a piece of legislation has proved so ineffective, there is reason to question whether it is needed at all. Must auction rings be outlawed?

The conventional auction ring comprises an agreement between dealers not to bid against each other at a public auction. This will usually enable them to acquire the lot or lots they are interested in very cheaply. After the auction the group of dealers will move off to the back room or a local pub or some other suitable location to hold a second auction, or "knockout" between themselves.

The difference between the auction price and the top price one of their number is prepared or "knockout" between the participants according to some agreed formula. This "conventional" style of ring is still prevalent at country auctions. Some of the participants go in the auction merely to take part in the ring. They have no desire to purchase works themselves but come along to share the proceeds of the "knockout". They are a particular thorn in the flesh of all concerned.

The extent to which rings operate within London auctions is not known precisely to specialists. Where dealers regularly make up the bulk of the purchasers in fields such as carpets, silver, jewelry, and books, it is common for arrangements to be made over who is to bid and who is not. Most of these dealers who are old colleagues, meet each other regularly both at work and play. It would be extraordinary if they did not do deals.

In theory the auctioneer can and should protect his clients from such combinations by setting a high enough reserve price below which the lot is not to be sold, to ensure that a large percentage remain unsold is a mess; there is a situation for auctioneer's reserves on many will admit to "leave something to the dealers".

The particular case of the Agnew's case is an Act outlaws all agreements between dealers not to bid against each other at a public auction. This will usually enable them to acquire the lot or lots they are interested in very cheaply. After the auction the group of dealers will move off to the back room or a local pub or some other suitable location to hold a second auction, or "knockout" between themselves.

As art and antique rise, partnership bids coming more and more into auction, in a two or more dealer buy or sell, and share the proceeds. It has even rages. It means that the piece on sale is less capital is tied up in the object, which is owned by several dealers. In the past, however, it may well prove easier.

This is the type of entered into by Agnew's and Sons, the Bond Street art dealers, and Aramis Algaud in the shares. However, it is not contravened the not necessarily mean such deals fall outside of the law.



In giving his judgment, the fact that the lot is not to be sold, to ensure that a large percentage remain unsold is a mess; there is a situation for auctioneer's reserves on many will admit to "leave something to the dealers".

What this case does clear is that the law is looking at it is no longer effective. There is an argument for scrapping all, an auction is a lottery played between buyers and sellers. The buyers are not get their goods as cheap as possible—the sellers get the highest possible price. Should, perhaps, be left to the market to decide. It is, to ensure that market price is achieved, this responsibility should be enshrined in law?

George Hill

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THE HIGH ROAD TO RECOVERY

Is rising? One possible reason for the boom in the stock market is a rise in economic activity. But there is a more important reason for hope and a new attitude to investment capital projects in the country.

House of Commons select committee has at the decline in capital relative to current should be halted. The for himself promised the that he would look the way Government borrowing for investment opposed to consumption, der of the nationalized s are setting up a work- to see how they can investment without the total level of public and within private and the City consider- night is being given to partnerships between and private sector to ach projects as tele- communications and the electri- of the railways.

Government ought to all of these develop- a matter of urgency, as invested too little for . The collapse of our vestment in recent years dramatically charted by nous Treasury Commit- after year, Govern- taken the easy way d scrapped capital nes instead of trimming pending. Over the past the proportion of total ending accounted for ment has fallen from cent to 12.4 per cent. e of investment, after for inflation, has fallen third.

as happened partly t is simply easier for to cancel a hospital- ange the way it admini- health service. But there than simple biases in an easy life for mini- system of control over t, particularly of the ed industries, is wholly late for a modern nation. Each of the orations, whether loss- profitable, is treated ere exactly the same. rial financing limits e Treasury sets hold vrowing to finance investment just as they restrict raising cover losses caused by cy.

is no reason to adopt approach. Some indus-

tries, such as telecommunications, are clearly profitable and need to raise capital to expand. No one suggests that the United States economy would benefit from holding down borrowing by American Telephone and Telegraph to a level where it would be incapable of providing a proper service. Yet we persist in hamstringing our own telecommunications industry to the point where the City of London looks less attractive as a centre for new world financial and commodity markets. Britain's railways need to be electrified and modernized to play an effective role as bulk carriers of people and freight. But again borrowing restrictions have applied, reducing the efficiency of a vital part of a modern transport system. Instead of judgments between projects, we have had blanket restrictions, a substitute for thought and a guarantee of equality of misery and inefficiency.

Some critics of increasing public investment argue there are no criteria by which it can be judged. It is not true for nationalized industries. They are required to achieve a 5 per cent rate of return on their investment which is much less than the normal rate in the private sector. Indexed securities with a real rate of return of 2 per cent are highly prized by private investors. Why should the nation be denied the chance of enjoying the fruits of much more profitable projects? The railways, as a nationalized industry, have suffered particularly by contrast with the roads, which are not governed by the same rules. It is three years since the Leitch committee pointed out that there is no basis for comparability between investment in railways, roads, waterways and ports.

It is clearly true that there are bad capital projects as well as good ones. Nobody would pretend that all investment is good and all current spending bad. There has to be sensible assessment (of the kind jointly produced by British Rail and the Department). Nobody is asking for a blank cheque; and nobody would pretend that at a stroke more investment will rid us of our familiar deep-seated problems of wage inflation and productivity. But if we wait until these are solved we will, in a due number of years, be contemplating a Britain reduced to a heap of industrial rubble. And there is no need for it. Labour restrictions may be infuriating and must be fought but they are

no more illogical than having millions of people out of work and equipment and factories lying idle while viable projects, such as the Channel Tunnel, languish for reasons of pure semantics.

The Government has been worried by the impact which more state investment would have on the level of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. But Britain is almost alone in treating borrowing for profitable projects on a par with financing current deficits. If that is the only problem, the authorities should just change the definition of public borrowing to exclude such investment, just as most other nations do. More sophisticated critics say that whether or not such spending counts as part of the PSBR, it must "crowd out" other kinds of investment or consumption unless it is to be a concealed form of reflation. But what is wrong with increasing demand at a time when plants are closing down for lack of orders? Private investment is falling now, not because there is too much public investment but because there is too little. Industry knows that there is no point in increasing its capacity to produce if no one will buy.

The present recession presents the British economy with a challenge and an opportunity. We can mobilize the spare resources which we have to build a stronger economy for the future. The London Business School, no friend of fiscal expansion, suggests that we could have falling interest rates and money supply kept to within the Government's target even if public borrowing were allowed to be £12,500m in the coming financial year rather than the £10,500m the Chancellor expects. The savings on unemployment pay which would result from the extra jobs created would mean that the net cost of an investment programme would in any case be less than the gross expenditure.

But even if raising public investment meant higher borrowing and faster growth in the money supply, it would be worth the risk. The greatest threat to price stability and output comes from the rapid destruction of what would otherwise be healthy sectors of the economy. If recovery comes, we shall find that we lack industrial capacity and the infrastructure we need. Mrs Thatcher will press her foot on the accelerator—and nothing will happen.

IDS DETENTE WHERE IT DID?

German Chancellor in his speech yesterday issue with Mr Weizsäcker's suggestion that encouraged the Soviet Union to step up its effort after President Brezhnev's move to remove its troops from Cuba. The moment build-up has come to a halt. Among the reasons are that it is difficult to switch the lever from on, that the ever feel safe without superior, and y they would like to balance of power 'avour if they can. not encourage them; failed to stop them, something would have in but if any western encouraged them the not detente but failure to ratify Salt arked when President is nerve. Why should urning if the Ameri- ratify agreements? hey were also encour- lieve that superiority their reach by the average annual Ameri- spending (calculated prices) from 1970-75, uly the result of the Vietnam war and

partly, admittedly, a result of the hopes pinned on detente, but this can hardly be blamed on the Russians, who were perfectly frank about using detente to make the world a safer place for socialism. If some Americans persuaded themselves that detente was the end of confrontation rather than an attempt to regulate it they had only themselves to blame.

It is important to be clear about these things because the cohesion of the Atlantic alliance is still threatened by a basic unresolved difference over east-west relations. The present American Administration looks back on detente as having fostered dangerous illusions which contributed to the relative decline of American influence in the world. Europeans blame the failures of detente partly on the continuing Soviet drive for global power but partly also on America's failure to meet this drive with the right combination of penalties and incentives for restraint. They fear that American impatience and disillusionment will now make the management of east-west rivalry even more difficult and that the Soviet Union will have even less reason for restraint—in Poland, for instance—if it comes to feel that it has nothing more to lose in east-west relations.

Herr Schmidt's speech makes a useful contribution to this debate because it reaffirms the need for east-west dialogue with the Soviet Union while remaining absolutely firm on the essentials of western security, the Atlantic alliance and the need to maintain a military balance of power. Not by any stretch of the imagination could he be accused of leaning towards the pacifism and defeatism which many Americans now believe to be rampant in Europe.

Yet he is, of course, facing stronger political challenges at home than he has faced for some time, and the Americans need to see this. The end of automatic economic growth in West Germany has coincided with diminishing faith in the wisdom of the United States. These two factors have combined to undermine West German confidence and contribute to the rising tide of mostly youthful protest against the political establishment in general and nuclear weapons in particular. If the Americans wish to counter this they can best do so not by lambasting the Europeans for incipient pacifism but by acknowledging the reality of Europe's interest in east-west relations and trying to restore lost confidence in America's ability to use its strength with wisdom and purpose.

INTEMPTIBLE BLOCKADE OF IRELAND

of Civil Service seeking for the second broil the Republic of its quarrel with its the British Govern- pulling out customs and agricultural in- the Irish border t coast ports it hopes the Irish export under a half of all of the Republic have Kingdom as their and another sizable comes into Britain for cent. The civil service elied the same treat- beginning of their month ago. Although at longer than a week me injury to the which at the moment han enough economic of its own making. cal purpose of this is to send the Irish at running in pain to Government to beg it its tormentors. The that of the bully, and istication no better Perhaps the customs e various posts and have less stomach for aggression than the ers in the civil ser-

vants' war room. Perhaps it has already been decided by the strike-masters to pass on after a few days and foul things up elsewhere. If so no great harm will have been done except to the reputation of the British public service.

If, however, this refusal of duty bites and lasts, and if as a consequence Irish exporters and the Irish economy are put in serious difficulties, the British Government should be prepared to release the trade by suspending customs regulations between Ireland and the United Kingdom so far as is consonant with public health and public security. If the return the Irish Government were to cause copies of all the relevant documentation in the hands of the Irish customs to be forwarded to the British authorities, a sufficient record would exist for the collection of duties or making of payments. In the case of agricultural exports the Irish customs would have docu- Irish customs relating to the payment of CAP levies and the eligibility of Irish beef for the Intervention Board. And all meat exports are checked by the Irish veter-

inary service. In the case of industrial goods the accompanying certificate of origin, authenticated by the Irish customs, would be evidence of duties payable if any.

No doubt the attempt would be made to "black" copies of these documents if they were used to make up for defaulting British customs officers. So temporary suspension of customs regulations could be expected to bring some loss of revenue, a stimulus to smuggling along the Irish border, and some further chaos in the already fairly chaotic financial transfers injected into Community cross-border agricultural trade.

These temporary inconveniences could be easily borne in the good cause of alleviating Ireland the consequences of a dispute that is none of its making and in the course of which it is being deliberately abused by the strike committee of the United Kingdom Civil Service. It would be a friendly gesture to a friendly neighbour, of more practical benefit perhaps than any of the committees springing in the shade of the two prime ministers' enigmatic assigna-

Removing anomalies in charity law

From the Director of Christian Aid Sir, The remarkable events involving the Charity Commission in these recent days have at least illuminated the chaotic state of our charity law. That within three days of the judgment being given in the Daily Mail libel case the Charity Commission should have been told there were no grounds for disturbing the present charitable status of certain trusts of the Moonies, or Unification Church, was striking enough. That the anger and arguments of a delegation of MPs should immediately cause a re-examination of that clear judgment is no less striking.

The oddity of the situation is even more illuminated when we remember that only last month (March 19) your law reports contained a rejection of the appeal of Amnesty International against a refusal of the Charity Commission to register certain of their trusts as charitable. The learned judge made clear that "procuring the abolition of torture" is not an object charitable in law. Christian Aid itself has been informed by the Charity Commission that documentation of the violation of human rights—often the best way of stopping such violation—is not charitable. But the same commission, until faced with a powerful revolt of public opinion in Parliament, sees nothing save what is charitable in the activities of the Moonies.

Of course it may be said that the original statement of the Charity Commission did not assert that, but only that the objects of the Moonies' trusts were charitable. Quite, but charities which fulfil the purpose of human rights—often the best way of stopping such violation—is not charitable. But the same commission, until faced with a powerful revolt of public opinion in Parliament, sees nothing save what is charitable in the activities of the Moonies.

The revision of charity law is not easy, although the main lines on which it should be given from the present intolerable situation have been authoritatively indicated

both by the Goodman committee in 1976, and the Expenditure Committee of the House of Commons in 1975. But, if not easy, the task is urgent. A charity law which is so insecure that it finds no legal advisers straining to find the relevance to our work of provisions for securing the captives of Barbary pirates will not do. Charity law must reflect the common understanding in our society of what it for man's well-being. I cannot believe that the bulk of our fellow-citizens think that to work for the abolition of torture is not charitable. The ludicrous situation should be drawn from a wider swathe of our swiftly changing society than the Civil Service?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SLACK,
Christian Aid,
PO Box No 1, SW9,
April 8.

From Dr M. Spencer Sir, I note that several Conservative MPs have expressed disapproval of the charitable status accorded to the Moonies, on the grounds that the organization indulges in "brainwashing" and has a purpose "more political than religious". May we hope that they will now transfer their attention to those other institutions that enjoy charitable status, and which are subject to the same criticism? I refer, Sir, to the public schools.

Yours, etc,
Dr M. SPENCER,
34 Bayham Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.
April 6.

The language of common prayer

From the Reverend Alan Shackleton Sir, The attempt to promote a Prayer Book Protection Bill enabling a small minority in a parish to foist their concepts of pure nostalgia on the remainder is, at best, based on the notion that the Christian liturgy may not be changed once it has been around long enough for many to become attached to it, whether it be an adequate expression, or "tool", of belief or not.

The 300 years or so of the Book of Common Prayer is not a long period of satisfaction, but a period in which it proved impossible to gain a sufficient majority to indicate the next way forward. Now it is urged that if 20 people on a parish's electoral roll, not necessarily members of the church, can be mustered, their desire for familiarity becomes all important.

The Church expresses itself through its worship: is it, therefore, to claim such affiliation with the seventeenth century as the compromise the effective becomes permanent? Liturgy is the "tool" through which the worshipper speaks and acts. Whatever criticisms the Alternative Service Book may provoke, or literary admiration the Book of Common Prayer may inspire, the revisions are painstakingly undertaken have been genuine attempts by the Church of England to be better understood.

The tool must be effective for its job; the proposed Bill is as useful as requiring that modern industry use only the tools of the old equipment for old times' sake. It makes the Church's worship a museum piece.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SHACKLETON,
St Luke's Vicarage,
York Street, Heywood.

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative) Sir, I pray that the Roman Catholic hierarchy will ponder your leading article of today (April 8), and the Prayer Book Protection Bill introduced in both Houses of Parliament.

For "Prayer Book" read "Latin"; for "Alternative Service Book" read "texts approved by the

International Commission for the English Liturgy" and the Lords debate might have been about the old and the new in the Roman Catholic Church and in the Anglican and Romanist via with each other in an ecumenical work of destruction. Many in both communions are anguished and divided from co-religionists. In both communions liturgical changes are seen to have brought theological dangers. Let *omni et lex credendi*.

Parliament may defend the Anglican heritage which Synod is accused of having failed to defend. We Romanists must turn to Rome. Few Catholics know that the Second Vatican Council presumed that the new rite would normally be in Latin with the vernacular option. For what is optional or "alternative" so easily becomes compulsory.

Few Catholics know—their clergy, if they knew, have not told them—of the Pope's solicitude for those who want Latin restored and will it a new version of the sacred Let our bishops not drive them to despair but show as much tolerance of old Mass as of folk Mass.

Your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,
House of Commons, SW1,
April 8.

From Mr J. A. H. West Sir, As churchwarden of a small country church, which takes off its Sunday services from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, may I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed in your leading article today (April 8).

Our congregation, at matins, has almost doubled over the past five years, as many of the churches in surrounding villages transfer, in whole or in part to the "A la carte menu", referred to in your article. This increase in attendance at the traditional modes of worship has come about despite a deanery re-organization which has deprived us of a resident rectory. In this matter, at least, long live the past!

Yours faithfully,
J. A. H. WEST,
Churchwarden,
St Nicholas Church,
Bexhill,
April 8.

Broadcast news 'bias'

From Sir Geoffrey Cox Sir, In your report on April 5 on accusations of bias against ITN and BBC Television News, you present without challenge the claims of the authors of *Bad News* and *More Bad News*, that these books have proved that television news is frequently biased.

In a detailed review of *Bad News* in the *IBA Journal* of December, 1976, I demonstrated that not only was much of the evidence adduced for bias ill-founded, but that in any event it did not support many of the deductions drawn from it.

A comparable critical study of *More Bad News* was made by Alastair Burnet in an address to the Royal Television Society in 1980. Most of these reasoned criticisms have been effectively answered by the authors. Since these two books form the core of the case alleging bias in television news, their own validity should be probed.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY COX,
Colo St Dennis,
Gloucestershire,
April 7.

TV and brain death

From the Director General of the BBC Sir, I do not intend to follow Dr Sells (April 3) into another post-mortem on the *Panorama* brain death programme, and its sequel. The original programme aroused concern in the medical world: that concern, by common consent, was met by the second programme.

Yours faithfully,
IAN TRETHOWAN,
BBC,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1,
April 9.

Appointment of bishops

From Professor Sir Norman Anderson, OC, FBA Sir, I am one who was intimately concerned in three debates in the General Synod regarding the appointment of diocesan bishops, and also in the discussions on this subject with Sir Harold Wilson and with the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal parties. I welcome Sir Harold's letter (April 6) to make the facts clear. I make three comments.

1. I am glad Sir Harold stated that on no occasion "the Prime Minister should be free to ask for a third name" from the Church. I put the word "third" in italics because it has been alleged that the Prime Minister reserved the right to ask for a fourth or fifth name (etc). This is not true.

2. As I recollect it, Sir Harold said that the Prime Minister would find this necessary "only in very exceptional circumstances". I could not swear to his precise words, but I vividly remember the two illustrations he gave.

3. He also agreed that for the Prime Minister to recommend to the Queen the second of the two names put forward by the Church would itself be somewhat exceptional.

I have no wish to comment on any of the appointments which have been made since the Crown Appointments Commission was set up. The words of the commission should be strictly confidential. It is for the commission to report to the Synod, from time to time, whether it is satisfied with the way the agreed procedure is working.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ANDERSON,
9 Larchfield,
Gough Way,
Cambridge,
April 7.

New life for British film making

From Mr Robert Bolt and others Sir, We, the undersigned, contribute to undrinkable believers in British film, seek to express the desperate concern we all share for the future of our native industry. All signs indicate the production of a mere handful of British feature films in the coming year, a cultural and economic outlook which we believe to be disastrous.

Unless steps are taken immediately, our cinema and television screens will soon be totally dominated by film entertainment from foreign sources. We therefore urge upon Parliament the following:

1. The extension of the Eady Levy to apply to cinema films exhibited on television. Currently, cinema exhibitors, distributors and producers under this scheme, all contribute from their shares of total revenues. It is, incidentally, a levy applying equally to foreign films, something which Hollywood has generously accepted.

The ludicrous situation of the present largest exhibitor of film—television—being exempt from such payments must be changed. ITV last year showed 328 films made originally for the cinema. Over the past Christmas holiday period alone, the BBC proudly proclaimed that it would transmit over 60 feature films. Both networks freely acknowledge that the cost of their producing entertainment of comparable variety, quality and appeal would be enormously greater than the sums they have paid over the years for cinema films.

In the light of this situation, the revenues received by film makers from United Kingdom television have, to date, been derisory. The justice of television companies contributing to the fund could not be more self evident.

2. For various historic reasons, film and television are subject to supervision and control by a number of Government bodies, as the Department of Trade, the Ministry for the Arts, the Post Office, the Home Office, the IBA—a situation doubtless relished by civil servants but few others. We suggest that such a mixture of authorities is

wasteful, government, results only in conflict and confusion and is demonstrably frustrating to the film-maker.

We advocate, therefore, the establishment within a single ministry, of new statutory body, whose duties, inter alia, would be to examine the existing legislation affecting film and television. It should also be the principal adviser to the Government on all matters relating to the audio-visual entertainment industry.

3. We believe that the deplorable restrictive practices present in the film industry, both in its distribution and exhibition, must be changed. A primary task of the new ministerial/statutory body would be to monitor this aspect of the industry, and further, to prevent a similar growth of monopolistic practices within the developing technologies (satellite, cable, videodisc, etc.) so that genuine and healthy competition may be enjoyed by all those engaged in film-making.

We wish to see the image of Britain projected throughout the world. There is certainly no lack of talent: we have writers, directors, producers, actors, technicians and craftsmen in generous supply. What we lack is genuine competition in the domestic market: a continuity of finance; and a focal body directly representing a broader industry to Government and Parliament.

Given this, it is our belief that Britain, once again, could be in the forefront of creative and commercial film-making throughout the world.

Yours etc,
ROBERT BOLT,
JOHN BULLOCK,
ROY BOLLING,
DICK WILD,
TIMOTHY BURRILL,
RICHARD CAVEN,
HUGHAN DORRIS,
JACK DOLAN,
BARRY HANCOCK,
MICHEL HODDER,
JOHN JEFFRIES,
JOSEPH LOSBY,
Care of Cowan Bellows Associates,
45 Poland Street, W1,
April 7.

Complaints against police

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales Sir, I have not seen the report of the Home Office Research Unit on police complaints and, in common with my colleagues in other police staff associations, was unaware of its existence. I am not, therefore, able to comment in detail upon the information revealed in your summary (April 8).

Two points strike me as important. The first is that the research consists of an ex post facto examination of the documents in complaint files. In every case those files have been considered by experienced lawyers in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Director has the right to require further inquiries to be made into a complaint. If he had reached the same conclusion about the alleged inadequacy of the original investigation, he would certainly have exercised this right. The conclusion of the authors of the report, that the investigations in some cases have been biased in favour of the

police officer, or otherwise inadequate, obviously differs from the considered view of the Director.

Secondly, I thought that the purpose of academic research was to examine facts and reach conclusions based upon them. Some indication of the approach of those responsible for this report is given in the extract quoted by Mr Evans: "The effectiveness of the formal system for making complaints against the police has become, for many, the touchstone of the state of police community relations, not least for relations with the black and Asian communities."

It would be interesting to know what qualifications possessed by the researchers enabled them to make a statement which appears to have nothing to do with disinterested research, but a great deal to do with special pleading in support of particular interest groups.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JARDINE,
Police Federation of England and Wales,
15-17 Langley Road,
Surrey,
Surrey.

Peacetime conscription

From Mr J. C. Neville Wood Sir, The article by Sir Hugh Fraser (April 8) on "the acceptable face of national service" is literally and patently totalitarian. Sir Hugh should take no comfort from the fact that a Gallup poll may have found that 68 per cent of the public is in favour of compulsory service. It is only too easy to obtain such a result from the large number of older people, and particularly from women who were not subject to conscription in peacetime, who for a variety of plausible reasons are very happy to sacrifice the freedom of others in the sure knowledge that they will never be called upon to make the same sacrifice for themselves.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. C. NEVILLE WOOD,
12 Park Road,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Civil Service and defence

From Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watkinson Sir, If, as reported in your paper today (April 7), it is substantiated that the claim by the Civil Service union leaders that their industrial action was causing serious disruption to the operations of the Navy, there has arisen a most serious situation jeopardizing the defence of the realm which the Government must surely take urgent and effective steps to overcome.

All civil servants should be removed from posts vital to our defence as a matter of urgency and they should be replaced by members of the Armed Forces forthwith.

Those who accept service under the Crown must also accept the contractual conditions which go with it: if they are not so prepared they must resign or be discharged.

Yours etc,
PHILIP WATKINSON,
Fintchingfield House,
Fintchingfield, Braintree, Essex.

Bar to sobriety

From Sir John Martin Sir, I was Private Secretary to Sir Winston Churchill from 1940 to 1945 and during the period was in close contact with him. He was not recall any occasion when he was "paralytically drunk" as has been alleged. (Speech by Lord Avonbury, London Diary, April 7.)

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. MARTIN,
The Barn House,
Wallington,
Oxfordshire,
April 8.

The first split

From Dr and Mrs David Wallbridge Sir, On April 6 Mr Ivor Lucas suggested that there is already a split in the SDP (Social Democrats) because the founders wear their badges on different sides. Dare we point out that Mrs Williams is distinguished from her colleagues by her gender? Does not the badge derive from the buttonhole and corsage?

In the permissive days when dancing partners were allowed to hold each other, the man wore the buttonhole on the left and the lady's corsage was worn on the right to prevent crushing of the flowers. Perhaps splits (like beauty) are in the eye of the beholder.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. WALLBRIDGE,
JANE WALLBRIDGE,
77 Montpellier Rise,
Wembley, Middlesex.

Tennis WCT pull out of 1982 grand prix series

World Championship Tennis has pulled out of the 1982 series of grand prix tournaments, it was announced today.

Their decision follows a row with the American Tennis Association's Council, who run the professional game, and who have tried to impose a new system of prize money based on a management headed by the American businessman, Lamar Hunt.

The chief contention imposed by the council is that WCT dissolve the ATP, which is a professional management company. Christopher Morrison of Britain was the last to leave the ATP last year, and this week—and thus Hunt has refused.

WCT have been part of the grand prix series since 1976, and their commitment was involved in them this year in winning eight of the 12 events.

Although their agreement with the council does not expire until the end of next year, their tournament in Houston, Texas, this week will be their last.

years, across with them. I'm answer to anyone who may be sceptical, Boycon himself is undefeated. He has won 10 of the 40, as being trained to the minute.

At the end of the first Test match played without a rest day between Australia and West Indies in Brisbane in December 1959—one of the West Indians was killed in a car crash on his way to his room. "It must never happen again," that was Sirbaube, certainly, when it was oppressively hot and the wear is not only physical.

If a rejigging of the county programme is decided to provide for both Test play on Sundays (which would be a first for the country) and a Test rest day, so be it. The idea being mooted here is that Test play in England should be on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and that the Thursdays and Fridays after a Test match should be left open for other sports and competitions. As for the Australian players, known also to favour Test rest days, they will have to wait until the 1960s.

For that matter, must Sandham's 325 have been in April 1939, in England's last time England played in Kingston? The answer was no, as the marathon innuys, though that was in mid-February when it was slightly cooler, in Kingston, where such heat is the distance the boys can sit in bowls in the public parks.

If tomorrow's pitch is slightly better, the West Indians are more than ready for the match against Jamaica, as seems likely, there is no way that England will bowl them out. The attacks against the West Indies. The attacks, quite simply, are in a different class.

When Hutton made his double hundred, the first in England, it was bowlers were King and Gomez; when Amis played an heroically there were Julien and Boyce, plus a few overs with the new ball from Golder. On a traditionally the fastest pitch in the Caribbean, Holding, Croft, Garner and Roberts for Marshall if he plays, and the match may be a vastly different proposition.

Had England not given one of the poorest of all their recent tours to the West Indies, and then losing the first Test match.

Northumbrians defend title

whom they beat at the same stage last year on their way to the title.

Nell Priestley, aged 19, a wicketkeeper from Epworth near Doncaster, has joined Northamptonshire on a year's contract. He will be joined shortly by his brother, David, aged 17

Prop

INTERNATIONAL LAW

9.10.82

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Christchurch, April 9.—Test cricket could split into two camps over sporting contacts with South Africa, which is to tour New Zealand and Nottinghamshire all-rounder, said in a newspaper interview here today.

Hadlee said New Zealand's tour of the West Indies near year would depend on the consequences of Africa's current tour and South Africa's Fugby Union tour of New Zealand due to start in July.

"If any of our cricketers happen to go to South Africa, their selection for the West Indies would threaten the tour," he said.

But it has been made clear that New Zealand will not be bound by the West Indies Cricket Board. Our players will be selected on merit and I am sure that if they happen to have been to South Africa, it will not affect our board's thinking."

Hadlee added that if New Zealand did not go to the West Indies "because of South African links" West Indies could become isolated as cricketing unit.

Reuter.

Perfery title
Percy, Maine, from Northumberland, will be attempting to win the national indoor six-a-side club championship for the third time in four years at the Lord's indoor cricket school tomorrow. In the first semi-final round match Percy Main meet Wanstead (Essex), whom they beat at the same stage last year on their way to the title.

Neil Priestley, aged 19, a wicketkeeper from Epworth near Doncaster, has joined Wanstead on a short-term contract. He will be joined shortly by his brother, David, aged 17.

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 101.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations that the Civil Aviation Regulations 3.060, that an investigator is required to be present at the scene of an aircraft accident, and the said Regulations is being placed into the circumstances and causes of the accident that occurred on March 1961 at Lufkin Airport to Houston 12-0079.

in the United States of America.

Any persons who desire to make representations as to the circumstances of the accident should do so in writing to the Board of Investigation, Civil Aircraft Accidents Branch, Department of Civil Aviation, 60-74 Victoria Street, London, W.1.

Persons who are in possession of the date of this notice, and should quote the reference number of this notice.

Dated: 10th day of April 1961.

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Meanwhile, no further bills should be sent to Liverpool.

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Brazil's economic strategy in trouble

Brazil, which tried to fight its energy crisis by pushing economic growth, instead of letting its economy slow down as other big industrial powers did, may be in serious trouble as a result of its strategy. The foreign debt—the largest in the Third World—was \$53,800m (£25,000m) at the end of last year.

The Government has apparently realized that the situation could not continue, and economists at home and abroad agree that the high level of inflation disorganizes the economy and stops necessary investment.

Senator Antonio Delim Neto, Brazil's planning minister, has taken measures to slow growth to curb prices. But his mixture of policies has made the volatile Brazilian economy over-reaction, his critics say.

Shares suspended
Consob, the Italian Bourse Supervisory Commission, has ordered suspension of dealings in the shares of Ercole Marelli, the financially troubled Milan electrical equipment manufacturer.

An extraordinary shareholders meeting on May 26 will discuss a drastic write down of the capital against losses, the extent of which has not been revealed.

Desert pipeline
Japan has expressed interest in a proposal from Oman to construct an oil pipeline from Saudi Arabia to the Arabian Sea, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz through which passes most Middle East oil exports, foreign ministry officials said.

Norway surplus
Norway had \$385m (about £300m) balance of payments surplus in January this year, up 64.7 per cent from \$173m in January last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Steel tariffs
The Australian Government has decided to maintain the present level of tariff protection for the iron and steel industry, a department of industry and commerce spokesman said.

W German production
West German industrial production rose a seasonally adjusted 4.5 per cent in February from January. A surprisingly favourable result, the economics ministry said.

Danish orders
New orders for Danish industry in February rose 6 per cent at current prices compared with February 1980, after a 1 per cent rise in January.

Australian jobless
Australia's unemployment rate in March fell to 5.8 per cent of the labour force, or 330,900, from 6.3 per cent in February and 6.1 per cent a year ago.

Chinese production
The value of China's light industrial production rose 9.9 per cent in the first quarter of this year, while heavy industrial production declined, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Norwegian oil delay
Development of the Ula field in block 7, 12 of the Norwegian North Sea has been postponed due to increasing costs.

Problems of developing nations to be discussed at 'unofficial' talks

Poland tops Group of Five agenda

The financial difficulties of Poland and several developing countries will be among the chief concerns of finance ministers and central bank governors from the "Group of Five" big industrial nations when they meet at Downing Street on Sunday.

Officially, Whitehall is denying that the meeting is taking place. But the Americans have confirmed that both Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, will be in Britain for meetings over the weekend.

They are expected to have discussions with British ministers at the Treasury before the gathering at Downing Street which will be hosted by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, and Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England.

Apart from Britain and the United States, the other countries represented will be West Germany, France and Japan. Herr Hans Martin, the West German Finance Minister, will not attend because of illness. His place will be taken by Dr Horst Schulmann, the state secretary for monetary affairs in the Finance Ministry.

Many of the participants will be meeting for the first time since President Ronald Reagan took office.

Several of the new Administration's policy statements have been viewed in Europe with some alarm, particularly the cuts in United States financial support for the international aid agencies.

The International Development Association is facing particularly acute problems because of the failure of the United States to pay its contribution. The agency is the main source of cheap, long-term loans to the poorest nations.

Mr Regan is certain to come under strong pressure from the Europeans to fulfil his obligations to the agency.

Gatherings of the "Group of Five" are held to coordinate the policies of the big industrial countries before the twice yearly meetings of the inter-im and development committees. These committees, which steer the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are next scheduled to assemble in Gabor in May. Questions about the aid policies of the rich nations seem certain to be raised there by ministers from the developing countries.

One of the other pressing issues likely to be tackled at the "Group of Five" meeting will be the level of interest rates.

According to reports in Paris, both France and West Germany have agreed to try to persuade the United States to reduce interest rates. High rates in America have pushed up rates in several European countries and this is tending to prolong the recession in Europe.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is particularly worried about this because it could harm his chances in the forthcoming elections. It is, however, a delicate subject as Europeans have been urging the Americans for a long time to tackle their

inflation and high interest rates are the result of a more determined bid to do so. There are also growing worries about the dangers of an export credit war. To the export orders, several industrial countries have shown themselves ready to offer ever more attractive export credit terms to their potential customers. This is leading to a worrying escalation in export credit competition.

A related issue is trade competition from Japan. Pressure is building up both in Europe and the United States to take action against Japanese imports. Protectionism is likely to be headed off only if the Japanese undertake to reduce their exports voluntarily, a point which is likely to be made clear to the Japanese Foreign Minister on Sunday.

However, the problems of the big debtor nations seem likely to get most attention. Apart from Poland, doubts have been raised about the financial situation in several developing countries including Brazil, one of the biggest Third World debtors.

The possibility of a big default, and its implications for the international financial system, is known to be an increasing preoccupation of several financial ministers. The "Group of Five" meeting gives ministers an opportunity to discuss ways of dealing with such an event, or even preventing it.

Melvyn Westlake

Miners in protest on plant delay

By Paul Routledge

The Government was yesterday accused of dragging its feet for the past year over the go-ahead for an oil-from-coal liquefaction plant.

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, whose threat of a national strike two months ago forced the Cabinet to change its policies on subsidies for the coal industry, are to protest to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, over the delay.

The National Coal Board has also privately protested to the energy department over government hesitation about investing £20m over three years to build a pilot plant at Point of Air, North Wales.

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the NUM, said yesterday: "It only needs a nod from the Government. We are not asking for money immediately." The miners are still demanding large subsidies for the industry in the current financial year. They have urged the Coal Board to take a much stronger line in negotiations with the energy department on the multi-million-pound rescue operation for the industry.

"We are anxious to keep this thing going," Mr Gormley said. "It is no good anybody presuming that when the lights stop on industrial action that the thing was finished. That feeling is still there in many areas, particularly when they see nothing being done at the pits that were on the closure list."

Double attack by industry chiefs on UK energy pricing policies

By Our Industrial Staff

Leaders of Britain's chemical and paper and board industries have launched separate attacks on the Government's energy pricing policies.

Dr Peter Caudle, deputy director general of the Chemical Industries Association, said the chemical industry faced a tough battle to maintain production levels, let alone take part in the expected European recovery.

He stressed that energy prices were a key factor, and he dismissed statements that EEC energy price levels were rising faster than those in Britain.

Addressing a conference organized by the Royal Society of Chemistry in Guildford, Surrey, he said: "Unless, in the United Kingdom, there is a change of national policy towards energy and feedstock pricing, it is unlikely that we will see any significant use being made of the positive factors which could be provided by United Kingdom oil and gas."

Regardless of economic theories or political judgments, he continued, the end result in 1981 was an international comparison between principal energy sources which placed United Kingdom prices at levels between 10 and 25 per cent higher than in the rest of the EEC for fuel oil and gas, and up to 50 per cent higher for supplies of electricity.

He warned: "The United Kingdom position, far from expanding rapidly as a result of our North Sea resources, may remain severely contracted

unless there is a significant shift in national energy and industrial strategies towards energy intensive and other heavy uses of manufacturing industry."

Dr Caudle cited a number of factors which had influenced the collapse of demand and output, including the depression of domestic demand by energy-intensive policies, high interest rates, the high Sterling exchange rate and the very rapid increase in the cost of services provided by State monopolies, especially energy utilities.

The hard-pressed paper and board industry, now 20 per cent smaller than a year ago, said assistance to companies on energy prices had fallen short of reasonable expectations and was "most misleading".

The British Paper and Board Industry Federation said that paper makers, which have closed 18 mills and 49 machines with the loss of nearly 10,000 jobs in the past 15 months, remain at a disadvantage compared to their foreign competitors.

Read Paper and Board (UK) yesterday proposed the latest company to announce redundancies. About 160 of the 800 workers at the company's Colthrop Board Mills at Thatcham, Berkshire, are to lose their jobs after a year when the mill has operated at a serious and unacceptable loss.

On gas prices, the federation said that only renewal rates for interruptible supplies had been frozen, not the prices themselves, and as a result companies were faced with in-

creases of up to 25 per cent on top of a 45 per cent rise in 1980.

The electricity tariff reductions for load management are still not clearly defined or understood, but it is becoming increasingly evident from companies who have already approached area boards that few, if any, major mills will be able to benefit.

The federation also complains that investment grants for conversion of boilers from oil to coal are "inadequate and unconvincing". Although £50m of support was being offered, in one company alone the cost of conversion was between £5m and £15m for each of its four largest mills.

"The proposed 25 per cent grants would therefore still leave a massive investment cost to be borne by the company even if the government were prepared to allocate a large proportion of its £50m support to the paper industry."

In addition, the increased tax on diesel fuel would cost the industry about £4m, which more than offset "any of the small benefits" announced in the Budget.

The federation said last year, with the exception of the soft tissue sector, every major section of the industry post ground and "most mills which made tiny profits, broke even or sustained small losses can be considered to have done well".

Last year, about one million tonnes of capacity was lost, reducing the industry's total capacity to about 3.75 million tonnes. In January this year,

Financial editor, page 25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cooperating to reduce inflation

From Mr J. R. Sargent

Sir, Mr Patrick Minford's account (April 7) of an inflationary process originating in higher public spending and an increased money supply (p.364) will be accepted by quite a large number. But not all of these would accept that the process can be simply and satisfactorily reversed by lower public spending and a decreased money supply. When an expansionary policy is launched, a higher rate of price inflation may well be followed quickly by a higher rate of wage-inflation, in such a way that the incentive to raise real output is lost. But will money wages respond as quickly to prices in the downward direction?

Studies of the past relationship between wage-inflation and price-inflation have supported the idea that a change of 1 per cent in the latter is associated with a change of 1 per cent in the former. But these studies have been based on the evidence of a past in which changes have been dominated by rising inflation; and it does not follow that the one-to-one relationship can be expected to reproduce itself in reverse when inflation is falling.

A careful interpretation of the evidence, and an appreciation of the realities of our collective bargaining system, should have warned those who advised the Government to pursue its present policy of the likelihood of a substantial lag in the response of money wages to declining price-inflation. The neglect of this has helped to bring us where we now are: a situation of depressed profitability, output and employment which only the most dogged of monetarists could still describe as the "transitional" effects which were mentioned in their prospectus.

Experience suggests that a programme for lowering inflation without permanently lowering output will need to include some positive action to encourage the necessary adjustment through the pressure of unemployment itself. Yet the Government threw away the card marked "incomes policy" in advance. Recently they have given the impression of feeling around for it while pretending not to.

Perhaps the time has come to stop pretending, and to seek

the support of organized labour in ensuring that the downward movement of price-inflation is accompanied by a corresponding movement of wage-inflation. Unless the Government and the unions co-operate in this, the outlook for economy's productive capacity must remain bleak.

If a policy's implementation is proving to have undesired effects, one does not have to advocate the opposite; a more realistic alternative is not to implement it until (or unless) it can adequately recast. There are risks in refutation, an incomes policy in that it would on past experience be difficult to operate effect. This argues for a neutralist. But the Budget decision press on regardless (two Financial Secretary) in a monetary direction. While we may appeal to Patrick Minford that rather more 364 economists see it triumph of dogma over evidence.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. SARGENT,
8 Furlong Road,
Albion Lodge,
London N7,
April 7.

Archbishop's views on morality in business

From Miss Kathleen Dawes

Sir, I gather that the Stock Exchange has been concerned by the Archbishop of York's reference to it in his Lenten talk on March 29. I did not feel, however, that he was criticizing the Stock Exchange as such, but rather the use some people make of it.

I was somewhat shocked myself to realize that by selling some unit trusts before an election and buying back afterwards, or buying some government stock before and selling afterwards (if I had had the nerve and desire to do this), I could have made a few hundreds of pounds.

In one of her reviews Dame Rebecca West, in talking of some of America's difficulties after the last war, indicated that one seemed to be the difficulty of persuading people to invest in industry instead of treating the Stock Exchange as a great big beautiful betting shop. I do not know whether the Archbishop—or for that matter many other people—ever contemplate the enormous complex edifice of finance and industry, accompanied by a vast expansion of population which has been built up during hundreds of years—and which can be shaken by panic or the Arabs putting up the price of petrol etc.

I sometimes say that it all started with the invention of a symbol to denote, and the discovery of some Italian bankers that they could lend more than they had in their coffers. But

that may merely be my fancy. In any case we could not possibly do without the Stock Exchange to channel funds into industry and keep this complex system going—and it may be that the possibility of making something for nothing is inseparable from the system. This, after all, can be done in many different ways—for example, at Aintree or wherever.

The Stock Exchange in performing its useful work—indeed vital work—cannot be regarded as responsible for the peculiarities of human nature.

On the other hand the Christian Church is bound to try to have some idea of what may be regarded as a responsible attitude to money. I gather that there is a fair amount of "personal liquidity" floating around. My small share of it is by no means the result of my own efforts but due to an indexed pension, two spells in NHS hospitals, gifts from friends and the like.

I feel sure that those who have money are in many cases doing what they can to help. But I feel that spare personal liquidity should be channelled to socially useful ends. Mr du Cann feels that the Stock Exchange would be perfectly capable of raising private investment to pay the necessary public works which would help employment and bring work to private firms.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN DAWES,
25 Bradford Road,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire BA14 9AN.
April 7.

Cost of HMS publications

From Mr John Harrison

Sir, Further to Mr Rose's (April 2) and his comparison of the HMSO with commercial publishing, it must be in mind that the texts of Acts and other statutory have to be printed by HMSO to enable Parliament to function.

Surely, the cost of papers to members of a public should be more based on the marginal running off additional rather than expecting individual members of the public effect, subsidize Parliament not in the national interest but in the interests of a few.

Mr Rose also refers to printing machines. Perhaps the HMSO do modern computer types for if they do, how can justify charging, for a £4.50 (in 1980) for a 14 Finance Bill and then £6 the 176 page Act of which the text is common?

Bill? Even assuming that putters are not in fact a necessary advantage, if Acts are reset from scratch also that any likelihood higher sales of the Act is left to deduce the HMSO's overheads increase almost 22 per cent in 11 months between the re-publishing dates of April September. JOHN HARRISON, 7 Regal Lane, Regent's Park, London NW1 7TH.

Trade Indemnity

Highlights from the Accounts

	1980	1979
Premiums Written	£26.93m	£21.80m
Profit after Tax	£2.61m	£2.35m
Shareholders' Funds	£11.10m	£9.45m

Points from Mr. P. R. Dugdale's Statement to Shareholders

Against the background of a deep recession and an ever-increasing number of business failures, it may seem paradoxical to announce a record profit for the Company in respect of the year under review. I must emphasise, however, that the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1980, include the profit of £3,566,280 earned on the 1978 underwriting account during a time when trading conditions were very different from those of late 1979, 1980 and so far in 1981. The 1979 and 1980 underwriting accounts remain open in our books and in their own way show only too clearly why the protection, security and services offered by the Company have been so much in demand in recent times—a situation that is certain to continue in the foreseeable future.

RESULTS
To the underwriting profit of £3,566,280 must be added investment income of £1,714,461. After allocating £48,087 to the proposed Employee Share Scheme and charging taxation of £2,627,000 the net profit for the year was £2,605,654.

The recommended final dividend of 4.14p per share, together with the interim dividend of 2.2p, represents an increase on the previous year of 13.2%.

GENERAL
The recession has inevitably made heavy demands on the Company and perhaps the best yardstick of our achievement last year was that, in a period when manufacturing output in this country fell by a record 9%, we covered a substantially higher value of transactions. The turnover insured by the Company in the United Kingdom and overseas rose by 7.2% to just over £11 billion.

New business premiums doubled from approximately £1.9 million to nearly £3.8 million. At the same time, the number and value of policies not renewed remained at a low level and the net gain in new business made a substantial contribution to the overall growth in premium income.

PROSPECTS
So far in 1981 we have seen continuing growth in all areas of our business. Even if there should be some revival in the economy in the latter part of this year, as now seems possible, it is not likely that there will be any significant reduction in the number of business failures.

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
PREMIUM INCOME (£ million)	£14.79	£18.58	£19.81	£21.80	£26.93

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1980 are available from The Secretary, Trade Indemnity House, 12-14 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3AX.



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BANRO CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Satisfactory results despite worldwide recession and disruption within the automotive industry.

Results to 31st December	1980	1979	1978
Turnover	19,858,327	15,734,402	14,761,008
Profit before tax	901,497	1,156,646	1,073,278
Profit after tax	389,105	935,286	542,147
Earnings per share	15.2p	17.2p	9.9p
Dividend per share (net)	3.0p	3.0p	2.197p

66 I consider the results are satisfactory and reflect great credit upon the management of each subsidiary. Establishments Farnier of Penm S.A., in France, made a very good contribution to profits. The downturn in activity during the second half of 1980 has continued into 1981 and the indication is that profits are anticipated but they are likely to be at a lower level than those achieved in the first half of 1980. The finances of the Group remain sound and your Board propose a total ordinary dividend of 3p per share.

Your management team has intensified its efforts to pursue new diversified products resulting in the purchase, from a German company, of a technical and licence to manufacture and market Lignotek, a competitive wood and resin based product offering savings in weight, increased strength and durability, which will enable designers to greatly improve the interior of their cars. The initial response from the leading U.K. manufacturers is very encouraging.

66 I view future prospects with confidence in the knowledge that creative steps have been taken to ensure the continued growth of the Group in years ahead.

Edward Rose, Chairman.



Subsidiary Companies: William Bate Plated Strip (International) • Peresinette • Edward Rose (Birmingham) • Edward Rose (Telford) • Edward Rose (Sections) • Edward Rose (Plastics) • Edward Rose (France) • Farnier & Penm

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Edward Works, Pelsall Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B58 7HP

The principal activities of the Banro Group are the manufacture of framed windows, rolled sections, pressings, extruded plastic profiles, motor car body components, oil highways, vehicle components, the continuous plating of metal in hot and electroplating applications, for the sea, air, road, rail, domestic appliance and building industries.

سكينة الاحول

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

British profits let Bowater down

It has been a frustrating year for Bowater. All the progress it has made in North America, as its substantial capital investment programme there started to bear fruit, has been outweighed by the impact of the recession on its British businesses.

So, having been five per cent up at the start of the year, its share price has fallen to nearly 7 per cent. Operational profits from North American companies, reflecting the installation of a fifth newsprint machine at Bowater's Tennessee plant, were almost a quarter higher at \$31m. In Britain, though, where newsprint demand remained flat and where high sterling cost profits \$5.7m against \$7.9, the story has been entirely different. Bowater, like its competitors, has been losing papermaking plants and reducing capacity in other areas (including the closure of the Ellesmere Port mill). The cost in redundancies has been \$12m and 3,500 jobs, reducing the United Kingdom workforce to 6,300. Asset write-offs totalled a further \$6m.

At the end of the year United Kingdom profits had collapsed from \$32m to \$13m, a loss only mitigated by good performance in tissue companies and Bowater's most recent diversification, builders' merchandising. The market, though, sees Bowater's relationship with a point made in a modest bid (by manufacturing standards) of 61 per cent with the shares up 10p yesterday, 263p. If American results can be sustained, which Bowater believes they can be—and British profits, aided by lower sterling, start to move again later this year as the recession eases, Bowater would finally move to its long-term profits plateau. Meanwhile, a share provides a comfortable haven, rising is only 36 per cent.

Automotive Products sales, but not profits

Automotive Products had to pay a heavy price last year to hold on to market share against a previous profit of \$13.5m to losses of over \$3m—a figure which includes \$2.5m of redundancy costs. But the fact that the group felt able to take a dividend reduction of only 5 per cent only added fuel to recovery hopes which are currently firing the market. AP's shares rose 3p to 56p to yield 7.7 per cent with the payment twice covered by profits of heavy tax credits. On a current basis however the pre-tax loss rises to \$13m producing a loss per share of 11p.

AP's view after a terrible second-half is that the upturn must arrive eventually while in the meantime lower interest rates, more realistic exchange rates and declining inflation should at least provide some breathing space. After pushing turnover ahead 5 per cent \$206m last year—although it dropped 12 per cent in real terms—AP should be in a strong position to take advantage of any significant improvement in conditions in the motor trade. However, recent signs of improved demand from the distributors possibly reflect little more than the fact that they are almost completely bare after winter stockpiling. There is no evidence that confidence has improved sufficiently to lead to significant re-stocking.

For that reason, although AP may manage to avenge for the first half and a small fit in the second, real recovery hopes it run as far ahead as spring of next year. In an engineering sector awash with "crazy" stocks AP's shares may have edged high enough for the time being.

Ulips starts with several advantages. It is an established and well-managed, a household name around the world with a customer base in its homeland. Ulips still accounts for 60 per cent of sales. The company has stayed in the forefront of technological innovation, critical for survival in electronics. The inventor of the video cassette and one of the first manu-

facturers of the video cassette, it is heavily committed to the next generation of digital and optical technologies. Last year Philips spent 7.5 per cent of sales income, or about \$12,740m (£528m), on research and development, all charged to profit.

Philips also has the advantage of a worldwide sales network. The security this provides is evidenced by the 10 per cent increase in 1980 sales to \$136,536m, despite weak economic conditions. But this success, which was most notable in the highly competitive colour television market, shows up on the other side of the balance sheet.

After tax profits fell by 13 per cent to \$15,32m, or 1.5 per cent of sales compared with 1.8 per cent in 1979. Profits earned by Philips NV, the Dutch parent company, were not enough to cover a maintained dividend. Only by consolidating the good results from the United States Philips Trust could a mere \$119m be added to retained profit.

The message is that European costs and competition are placing Philips under intense pressure. Margins are suffering. The company is hitting back with two weapons. The first is a sweeping reorganization of its European manufacturing, concentrating on much higher productivity and quality.

Philips is looking to big new factories concentrating on one product for the whole European market. This strategy has been speeded up so that the 1980 accounts contain a provision of \$160m. It is likely that the European workforce will be cut by more than 10,000 in 1981.

The second approach is to move more aggressively into overseas markets. After the acquisition last year of General Telephone and Electronics in the United States, Philips has some 15 per cent of the American television market. In a bold move, it has bought 43 per cent of Marantz, a top-quality Japanese audio manufacturer. It is also cooperating closely with Sony and others on the digital disc.

But Europe remains a high cost area, wages always tugging in the opposite direction from efficiency and productivity. It will be a long haul.

European chemicals Over the worst

No-one is escaping the ravages of the European chemical recession. But the way the German majors are standing up to one of the worst ever downturns of demand is a measure of the job other groups like ICI have on their hands in making a decent return in the cut-throat competition of world export markets.

All the same, the big three German concerns are hardly moving in step. Fourth quarter figures from Hoechst and yesterday Bayer are showing improvement on what now looks to have been the nadir in the third quarter whereas BASF with its heavier emphasis in bulk petrochemicals saw its profits collapse by two-thirds in the last three months. An accounting change has made Bayer's overall figures more difficult to interpret but on a comparable basis 1980 pre-tax profits rose 11½ per cent to DM 1,566m. This points to a reasonable fourth quarter after the slight downturn recorded at the nine-month stage. But with the AG figures down by a tenth at DM 823m, there has been a much less happy time in domestic markets where the 3 per cent volume drop was made worse by the higher cost of imported raw materials than in export markets and overseas operations where the weakness of the Deutschmark has been such a boon.

Currency factors—the DM has dropped by over a fifth against sterling in the past 18 months—and cheaper energy costs have made German chemical producers well-nigh impossible to live with for groups like ICI. The German companies seem to be a little more sanguine about the demand outlook suggesting that volume is now picking up following the end of the destocking phase in the last quarter of 1980.

But the further weakening of the DM this year has made the Germans less aggressive on price rises than their competitors would like, and with naphtha prices easing customers are still reluctant to accept increases. With their domestic markets going into the recession rather later than Britain or America, the recovery in the German majors could be less pronounced and reduced dividends already indicated by BASF makes the shares less attractive on a yield basis than ICI. But at this stage yield grounds it is the United States groups like Du Pont which look a better recovery grounds especially if the DM gets back into its stride.

The Treasury Committee's report on the Budget has been reported as critical of government policy; but it is in fact a remarkably mild document when one recalls the Opposition's rage at the Budget proposals and the barely concealed fears and reservations of the Conservatives (inside and outside the Cabinet).

The mildness partly arises from the committee's view that the medium term strategy has been modified along the lines proposed in its report on monetary policy. The committee, modestly enough, does not claim any credit for this and it could hardly do so, since the report was published only a few days before the Budget.

It does, however, argue that the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) has departed "significantly" from the version presented last year. It cites five pieces of evidence to support its view—a more tentative statement of the monetary targets; the inclusion of a broader range of indicators, including the exchange rate; a more modest monetary target relative to the expected inflation rate; a shorter time horizon for the strategy; and the accommodation of a large increase in the money supply during 1980-81.

With one exception I do not think that the evidence shows that the MTFS has been modified; rather it shows that the committee chose to attack its own mistaken version of it. The one exception is that the Government did indeed allow considerable overrun of the money supply limits in the conditions of last year, but I would not deduce from that, nor from the expression "the main thrust of the financial policy", that the Government attaches any less importance to the need to control the money supply now than it did last year.

It was always assumed that the targets would become progressively less tight relative to inflation and I do not believe that the role of the exchange rate as an indicator has changed.

I cannot share the committee's satisfaction that the time horizon has been reduced by one year. I think this is deeply regrettable since it is still so important to emphasize a longer-term commitment to the reduction of inflation.

Saving money by 'seeing' heat

Missiles which seek out target vehicles by homing in on the heat from their exhausts, special binoculars which enable troops to see their enemy at night—these are among the military products which have been developed originally to detect heat differences for this sort of military purpose are now being applied to a variety of civil industrial and medical uses.

All objects radiate infra-red energy according to their temperature, quite independently of ambient light, and the pattern of temperature difference can be viewed as an identifiable thermal picture using an appropriate infra-red detector.

In civil use, thermal imaging can be used by security services for night vision, by emergency services to locate people

Technology

trapped in smoke-filled rooms, as a medical diagnostic tool to indicate body "hot spots" and for a variety of industrial tasks.

Among these industrial tasks, there have been some striking advances in recent years in the use of infra-red thermography for energy surveys in factories and offices. The heat distribution in industrial processes can be studied; and, in a similar way, a significant contribution to energy conservation can be made by locating sources of waste heat and ineffective insulation inside and outside buildings.

Individual buildings can be examined, both internally and externally, using hand-held viewers. For a picture of a complete site, aerial surveys (usually conducted at night) can provide a literally illuminating glimpse of unexpected heat losses.

A 1978 aerial survey funded by the Department of Energy to assess the use of this technology in the examination of four industrial and three urban areas. One of the companies whose sites were surveyed is Pilkington Brothers of St Helens, Lancashire. Its energy action group reported (besides measures to improve roof



A thermal photograph (right) of the house on the left. The lighter areas show where heat is being lost from the house. Crown Copyright

insulation which the survey had shown to be necessary).

A leading bay for lorries was seen to be losing heat at night when the bay was not in use; a workshop was identified where the temperature controls were out of adjustment; a supposedly well-insulated store room was seen to be losing heat (this was traced to hot ducting in the roofspace that needed lagging); inefficient steam traps were identified;

an underground steam pipeline was shown to be insufficiently insulated (as a result it was scrapped and replaced by another heating system); ventilation roof-vents were seen to be open (traced to faulty mechanisms).

These were but a few of many benefits obtained from the survey of the St Helens sites. The same company has gone on to continue to use both ground-based and aerial thermography to give cost-effective energy saving and plant condition monitoring.

In general, the relative temperatures show up as differences in shading (either in black and white or in colour), with different shades corresponding to known temperature differences. A roof which appears as white in the picture will be relatively warm; one which appears black will be cool. White areas on an otherwise black roof can indicate faulty or absent insulation. A thin white line can trace the otherwise unknown path of an inadequately insulated steam pipe.

Other factors such as the construction materials and weather conditions also affect the "imagery", as the pictures are called. In a good example of the well-established diversification practised at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell an image analysis group is working on the use of thermography to provide quantitative information from the aerial surveys.

Earlier, on a visit to the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Harwell, I saw a recent Department of Energy seminar on thermography and energy management. Dr Gill Haigh of Harwell reported that the technique was valuable for identifying building defects, because these were often associated with a change in external surface temperature. Examples included damaged insulation, water penetration, uninsulated girders, air leaks around windows and steam leaks.

In industrial use for plant monitoring, Mr M. A. Barrie of the AGA Company told the seminar, thermography could make it possible to look at design, workmanship and materials failure. Uninsulated observation holes in a furnace, unlagged steam pipes and a complete breakdown of insulation in a crude oil storage tank in which the oil is heated to keep it at the right temperature were among the faults that had been revealed in this way.

Aerial surveys, though effective in enabling large and complex sites to be surveyed instantly and objectively, remained at present more a qualitative than a quantitative aid. Dr David Williams of Clyde Surveyors Ltd said:

"I think the Commission themselves do not seem to see the fact, her shyness perhaps reflecting the nervousness of the new lively company which put her forward for the honour, the Worshipful Company of Marketers."

Margery Hurst (photographed above, in London yesterday by Bill Warhurst) was in uncharacteristically reticent mood after becoming a Freeman of the City of London at a ceremony in the Guildhall.

She asked for no more than one line in my column recording the fact, her shyness perhaps reflecting the nervousness of the new lively company which put her forward for the honour, the Worshipful Company of Marketers.

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Alan Budd

Muddled thinking about the financial strategy

Stationary Budget (on its definition) is a deliberate change in the strategy, but is an unfortunate consequence of the Government's reluctance to publish public expenditure plans four years ahead.

The report appears in general to accept the Government's forecasts for 1981-82. It also believes that the achievement of the target range for the money supply of 6-10 per cent should be easier this year. The main questions it raises are about the prospects for sustained recovery.

Its discussion of this point seems to be somewhat muddled since it confuses arguments about the short term and the medium term. Some space is devoted to the rather arid debate about whether, and to what extent, the Budget was deflationary.

The Report settles for the conclusion that the Budget tightened fiscal policy by £5,000m. But that is a hopelessly one-sided view of it. At one point the committee says: "We welcomed last year the simultaneous publication of public expenditure plans and the forecasts of tax revenue at Budget time." It goes on, fairly, to criticize the problem of comparing the Budget statement, the MTFS and the figures in the Public Expenditure White Paper; but surely the committee recognizes that the fiscal effect of a budget includes both revenue and expenditure. Any assessment of the impact of the Budget must take into account the fact that public expenditure in 1981-82 is now expected to be more than £6,000m higher than was planned a year ago.

The report questions whether a deflationary Budget (on its definition) is a deliberate change in the strategy, but is an unfortunate consequence of the Government's reluctance to publish public expenditure plans four years ahead.

The logic of the Government's strategy is as follows. The MTFS determines the growth of the money supply. This in turn will lead to determine the growth of nominal output. If inflation continues at a faster rate than the growth of the money supply, output will fall, but once inflation adjusts—as now appears to be happening—there is scope for real output growth within the monetary constraint. The Treasury is now hoping for a recovery of output of this type.

In the longer term the real growth of output will depend on the technical performance of the economy. The inflation rate will depend on the growth of the money supply less the growth of output (and on any changes in the velocity of circulation). These factors

in turn will determine the growth of the real money supply.

Thus the report has it exactly the wrong way round. The Government does not believe that in the longer term the growth of output depends on the growth of the real money supply; on the contrary it believes that the growth of the real money supply depends on the growth of output. It is one thing to question the Government's arguments; it is another thing to misunderstand them completely.

It is said that this may be the last report on general economic policy, at least for the time being. I believe this would be unfortunate, since there are still major questions to be raised about the Government's strategy. The report rightly criticizes the cuts in public investment. I believe that this part of the Government's policy is barely defensible.

I am surprised that it does not emphasize more the much poorer outlook for personal tax in this year's MTFS. The "fiscal adjustment" (which is inevitably a flimsy calculation) in 1983-84 is now only enough to offset the rise in the personal tax burden expected this year. That is a most damaging admission given the importance attached to the "supply side" effects of cuts in income tax.

Finally, there is the central question about the economic strategy. It is really true that the reduction of inflation is the necessary condition for sustained economic growth, as the Government so often asserts? A high price has already been paid in terms of the recent fall in output and the Government has now halved the assumed rate of growth over the next three years.

It is surely right that the committee should continue to press the Treasury to explain how far the recession has been due to its counter-inflationary policies and, to the extent that it has, to ask whether the price is worth paying. These questions are worth asking regardless of whether individual members support or oppose the strategy as a whole.

The author is Director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School and a former adviser to the Treasury Committee. He resigned in March over a disagreement about the role of advisers to the committee.



veys (Formerly Fairley Surveys) admitted. But the "grey" scale of a monochrome picture could be colour-coded to produce images in which temperature differences of only 1° centigrade could be indicated by different colours.

Dr Susan Fritchard, of Harwell, summarized the value of, and response to, the infra-red imagery. It gave an easily understood overall view; indicated priorities; exposed unexpected heat losses; and had an impact on management. Responses typically were to fix faults; switch off unnecessary heating; provide floor controls; and improve insulation. But it is at Harwell, I had seen a film which effectively empha-

sized the link between the military and civil uses of this "see what can't be seen" technology. An infra-red film taken at night showed an armoured vehicle moving across open countryside. The vehicle was visible in almost as much detail as it would have been in daylight.

But, more than this, the night watcher could clearly see the one short-thrower that was overheating (because its whiteness showed up clearly). This is the power of the tool that is now helping industry to cut down its substantial energy losses.

Kenneth Owen

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Business Diary: Making Europe safe for Unilever

the past forty-eight hours of Britain's top business leaders and other worthies have been crowded inside London's Intercontinental Hotel for the latest in a series of "Round Tables" organized by the European Management Association.

Speakers addressing the group or participants at the luncheon have included Lord Tebbit, the lean and wiry looking industry minister, Norman Lamont, the Labour and holding the reins of the SDP, Shirley Williams, who dealt with the sequences of the re-negotiation of the EEC.

Williams had to say but, fortunately, these affairs are not to the press; hence, says Geneva-based Forum, the executives of the possibility of old frank and practical sessions between themselves with prominent representatives of the countries concerned.

Forum, which runs an annual symposium in Davos, was chaired by Mr and Mrs. Briggs together executives throughout the day and assured them that it will be part of the

"Direct, personal, high level links vital to business advancement."

A high level of secrecy is maintained about the membership of the Forum.

However, chairing the United Kingdom Round Table has been Sir Patrick Mealey, chief executive of the Thomas Tilling Group flanked, appropriately, by a number of other knights either as participants or speakers, including CBI president Sir Raymond Pennock and another CBI stalwart, Sir Alex Jarratt, chairman and chief executive of the Reed Group. Also in attendance at the opening dinner was Jeffrey Benson, director and chief executive of the National Westminster Bank.

The proposition that in Europe politics is too serious to be left to the politicians was on the menu at a City lunch yesterday. The occasion was the 90th anniversary luncheon of the Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce. The principal speaker was Sir David Orr (right, photographed by Bill Warhurst yesterday), chairman of Unilever and former joint chairman of the chamber.

Sir David, speaking at Carpenters Hall, evidently has a growing chip on his shoulder since the recent poll which suggested that more than half of Britons would like to pull out of the EEC.

He was asked to deliver a speech entitled "Does the EEC mean business?" by the president, chairman, Ari de Gues, a director of Shell International and James Clesmon, chairman of Reckitt & Colman.

Like Sir David, they are evidently concerned that, unless business speaks out, the politicians will so bundle it that withdrawal from the EEC is a big issue at the next general election here.

Sir David said the "spirit of cooperation" was vanishing within the EEC, and there was a serious threat to the Community by budget deficit. He said that the common agricultural policy needed reform in order to eliminate wasteful surpluses.

Accordingly 200 top United Kingdom and Dutch business people bought tickets for yesterday's affair (£22.50 a head, plus the EEC's VAT) on the expectation of working the office by saying they had rubbed shoulders with royalty.

The Prince, I am told, abdicated this honour in a huff, after a mix-up over the invitation.

He told me that as a "warm" supporter of the EEC he was dismayed by the inactivity of ministers, "whether it is the agricultural ministers or the foreign secretaries."

He said: "I think they carry their squabbles into the open and blow up small issues because of the impression that they are going to make when they are reported back home. I think this is hurting the atmosphere badly."

"I think the Commission themselves do not seem to see the fact, her shyness perhaps reflecting the nervousness of the new lively company which put her forward for the honour, the Worshipful Company of Marketers."

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Bibby plan to counter French imports

J. Bibby, the agricultural and industrial group, this week launches a range of new turkey products aimed at beating the rising French turkey imports that flooded last year's Christmas sales.

Of the total turkey market of 20m birds, the French sold 2m to British customers. Although Bibby maintained its market share at around 10 per cent of sales, profits were squeezed and the group is looking to increase sales this year with the new processed turkey products.

Presenting the accounts yesterday, Mr Leslie Young, chairman, said Bibby should be able to match last year's results in the coming year. In 1980 Bibby achieved 11 per cent pretax profits growth of 10.8m.

With gearing at a low of 7 per cent and cash resources of over £6m the group aims to send some £10m this year on organic growth.

Lubroid tops £2.2m record year

A 27 per cent rise in pretax profits to a record £2.26m for 1980 is reported by Lubroid, a building products, specialist contracting, paper and plastics group. This was achieved on a turnover of 23 per cent at up to £45.21m.

This is the fifth consecutive year of profit growth. Earnings were doubled in two years and grew five-fold in 1975-80. A total dividend is going up 11 per cent to 5.35p gross, up 3.1 times.

Stanley Gibbons

Interests to be sold

It is announced by Letrasat at time of its half-year results, non-philatelic interests of Stanley Gibbons offshoot being significantly curtailed, recent has been reached in respect for the sale of Mayery and of Stanley Gibbons sales. The former is being sold jointly by Mr B. Eden and James (Norwich) Edens, while the latter is being acquired by its existing management.

Liam Sindall

ses dividend

On turnover up from £20.51m to £29.35m, pretax profits of £1.1m, the Cambridge-based building and civil engineering group, rose from £218,000 to £413,000 last year. This year's profit back to the 1978 level. The total dividend is up from 6.42p to 7.85p.

Midland Inds falls,

hits payment

In the 12 months to December 1980, pretax profits of Midland Industries slumped to just 0.00—on a CCA basis—compared with a pretax profit of £2.5m the previous 15 months. However, the dividend of 3.71p grossing paid, against 4.28p for 1979, which is 3.42p on a 'normalized' basis.

The board says it feels led in recommending an increased payment in view of the group's current performance and its confidence in the future.

yet to benefit

cord year

Financial Group's chairman, reported that writing his annual report, he had seen little sign that the United Kingdom's economic clouds are dispersing. The Budget cut in the under-16s is welcome, but the under-16s' hesitation of the customers to commit themselves to significant expenditure is likely to be of importance in the next months.

Morgan Crucible slumps to £10m

By Our Financial Staff

Carbon ceramic and crucible maker Morgan Crucible saw pretax profits dive by 47 per cent to £10.03m in 1980.

Trading in the United Kingdom fell from the second quarter onwards with the recession making itself felt more severely in the last four months of the year. Trading was helped by the 3 per cent increase in exports to 59 per cent of total sales and a brilliant performance from the group's overseas companies, the board said. However this was not enough to compensate for weak United Kingdom demand.

Mr Ian Weston-Smith, chairman, said yesterday that there had been a 'flickering of spring' in recent weeks. Orders, he said, while wholly unsatisfactory, were showing slight signs of improvement. The decline in United Kingdom demand had continued in the first quarter, but it appeared to be steady, suggesting that the severe destocking in the automotive and consumer industries might be near an end.



Mr Ian Weston-Smith, chairman of Morgan Crucible.

On sales higher at £123.7m against £113.28m in 1979, trading profits were down 28 per cent at £12.8m. But it was investment income, lower at £199,000 against £327,000, and interest charges, up to £2.9m from £1.5m, that held back pretax profits.

Interest charges were up

following increased borrowings during the year to finance the two acquisitions, Franklin Oil and DIA, made in early 1980. DIA, Mr Weston-Smith said, had traded satisfactorily. Borrowings rose by £4.6m, of which £3.5m was for the acquisitions, and £800,000 for trading activities. The group has a gearing ratio of 33 per cent.

Redundancy costs and relocation of plant took about £1m in the second half of the year, and the cost of redundancies continued into the first quarter of 1981. Much of the costs came from reducing one activity in the special carbon division which had suffered for some time from Far Eastern competition.

Results from the four trading divisions were mixed. The thermic division—supplying high temperature equipment—was particularly weak. The final gross dividend is unchanged at 4.2p, making a total payment for the year of 10.7p. The share price slipped back 3p from 144p, the year's high.

F J C Lilley's shares leap as profits climb 20pc

By Our Financial Staff

Shares in civil engineering and contracting group F. J. C. Lilley jumped 8p to 146p yesterday in response to a 20 per cent profit increase in the year to January 31. On sales up from £80m to £101.5m, pretax profits rose from £5.1m to £6.1m.

At the time of the rights issue in October, the board said it would propose a final dividend of 3.86p gross, but in the event the final is 4.57p, making a total for the year of 7.14p gross against 5.5p last year.

The board says that both new subsidiaries, Heavy Roads and Son (Portsmouth) and Harrison Western in the United States

made their expected contributions.

On current trading the board says the group's order book is at record levels with one third of the orders so far this year coming from overseas, as opposed to last year when exports and overseas construction accounted for 20 per cent of turnover.

However, the directors say it would be "unrealistic" to make any forecasts in the present climate, although "the group is now better placed to take advantage of opportunities as they arise worldwide, to sustain the progress achieved in recent years".

Berisford has no plans for new BSC bid

S. & W. Berisford, the commodity trader, has no immediate plans for renewing its bid for British Sugar Corporation, Mr Gordon Percival, Berisford's finance director, said yesterday.

Discussions are still going on between the Government and Berisford over the undertakings laid down in the Monopolies Commission report. Agreement on these conditions has been longer than expected, and is now thought unlikely before the middle of next week.

Mr Percival said that if Berisford does make another bid, it will look at BSC's earnings over the next ten years, rather than the immediate future.

Associated Book drops sharply despite rally

By Margaret Pagano

Associated Book Publishers managed to recover in the second half from the fall in profits at midway to report full-year pretax profits of £1.9m for 1980.

This was still a fall of 55 per cent from the £2.95m made in 1979, but is an improvement on the plunge from £1.02m to £202,000 in the first six months.

The results were up to market expectations, and the shares gained 7p to 223p. The final dividend is unchanged at 6.7p gross, making a total payment of 10.7p gross.

The year was described by Mr Peter Allsop, the chairman, as "the most hostile for 50 years". He added that the commission of the recession, government spending cuts, high interest rates and the strength of sterling caused strains on trading.

But after remedial action taken by the group he believes that this year will see a return to 1979's level of profitability.

The United States publishing business recorded £631,000 losses, but this should be reduced sharply this year. The trade book side of the business has been run down—with extraordinary costs of £175,000—but scientific and academic publishing is running smoothly and 1983 should see profits.

The first three months of this year have shown worldwide improvements over last year. Although public spending on children's educational and library books is not likely to be increased, the group indicates that its streamlining will improve efficiency. Trading profits from the United Kingdom business dropped from £2m to £939,000 in 1980.

Thomas Ward expects record

By Rosemary Unsworth

Thomas W. Ward, the cement-motor distribution group, which is making an opposed £100m bid for Tunnel Holdings, expects its interim profits to show an improvement on last year's record £7.25m. It also predicts that there will be a 10 per cent increase in the total dividend, bringing it to 10.2p gross.

Ward points out in its offer document, published yesterday, that the offer price a share stands at 417p, based on Ward's 130p price yesterday. At the time the bid was made last month, Tunnel's shares were valued at 393p through the offer of seven Ward shares plus 750p for every four Tunnel "A" or "B" shares.

Ward, which controls 29.9 per cent of Tunnel, stresses its intention of developing the groups' cement activities.

By using the 250,000 tonnes of unutilized cement production capacity within the two groups it would supply London and the South East to increase its overall market share from 20 to 22 per cent. "At present the largest cement-using market in the United Kingdom—London and the South East—is not served to any significant extent by either Ward or Tunnel following the closure by Tunnel of its West Thurrock cement works in 1976."

Ward also questions the success of Tunnel's speciality chemicals business, which was expanded recently by the acquisition of Alcolac in the

United States for £10m. Mr Peter Frost, Ward's chairman, says in the document that although speciality chemicals last year represented 24 per cent of Tunnel's profit, its contribution fell to 14 per cent in the six months to September 1980.

He says that waste management, the group's other diversification, has made only losses. But he adds that neither activity would be sold if the takeover went through.

Mr Derek Birkin, Tunnel's chairman, says in response that he would include the group's full-year results with the defence document which will arrive in plenty of time for shareholders to consider it before Ward's first closing date on April 30.

Disposals boost Hongkong Land

International

Hongkong Land and Company's HK\$1.620m (£140.8m) extraordinary profit in 1980 included HK\$1,300m from its sale of shares in Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and HK\$277m from its sale of Cannon House, Mr Trevor Bedford, Hongkong Land's managing director said.

He told a press conference that the company had spent a little more than its windfall profit to acquire a 40 per cent shareholding in Jardine, Matheson.

Hongkong Land currently owns less than 1 per cent of Wharf, against about 8 per cent at the end of 1980. Net profits

from the sale of the remaining shares in 1981 were about HK\$130m, he added.

Mr Bedford said that Hongkong Land would have another significant extraordinary profit contribution this year.

Beginning with the 1980 accounts, the group will revalue about one third of its property portfolio each year. The surplus arising from this

last year was HK\$6.440m. This raised the assets per share to about HK\$9.50 while, on a total revaluation, assets per share would be about HK\$14 to HK\$15 a share.

Earlier the company announced that it was recommending an increase in the authorized share capital from 2,000m shares of HK\$2.50 each to 3,000m shares.

Mr David Newbagg, Hongkong Land's chairman, said that the Mandarin International Hotels subsidiary, and the group's restaurant operation, had increased profits by 83 per cent in 1980.

Volkswagen cuts dividend

The Volkswagen car group is cutting its 1980 dividend from DM10 to DM8 per DM50 nominal share.

In a short statement, which did not allude to the previous year's payout, the supervisory board said that it had proposed a dividend of DM8 per share

to shareholders for a payout amounting to DM192m (£40.8m).

The company did not publish any profit figures, but observers noted that the dividend cut had been foreshadowed by a 42.3 per cent drop in net earnings in the first nine months of 1980

Borel back in profit

Net group profits of the Jacques Borel restaurant and catering group were 31.9m francs (£2.9m) in 1980, compared with a loss of 27.7 francs. The profit includes a 30m franc capital gain from the sale of St. Sofitel shares to Novotel. The parent company had a net profit of 15.8m francs against a loss of 29.2m francs.

New chief for building society

Mr Cecil J. Baker has been elected chairman of the Alliance Building Society. He succeeds Mr L. Farrer-Brown, who has been chairman since 1975 and who remains a director. Mr Maurice Leadley is to succeed Mr Baker as deputy chairman. Mr Leadley was deputy chief general manager for nine years before his retirement in 1979.

Mr Mark Richardson has been made a director of Lazard Securities.

Mr B. A. Wright, deputy general manager, life division, of the Sun Alliance Insurance Group from July 1, Mr A. E. Tricker, chairman of the group, has taken over after 43 years' service with the group, but will continue as a director of Sun Alliance and London Assurance and its principal subsidiaries.

Mr Graham Harrison is now joint managing director of R. P. Martin Leasing.

Mr Richard Stephenson, chairman of Stephenson Shuter, has been elected president of the National Association of Formwork Contractors for 1981/82. The new vice-president is Mr C. O'Shea and Company, and the honorary treasurer is Mr M. E. Napier, director of G & S. Formwork Company.

Mr Alastair Ramsey has joined the main board of the Oulab Group.

Mr Tony Hammel has become a director of marketing, Northern Europe, of Dataproducts International.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING REQUIREMENT

	Monthly total £m	Cumulative total £m
1979-80	157	8,227
March 1980-81		
April	934	934
May	2,354	3,288
June	1,337	4,619
July	804	5,423
Aug	1,592	7,015
Sept	850	7,865
Oct	162	8,027
Nov	2,835	10,862
Dec	2,248	13,110
Jan	1,178	14,288
Feb	737	15,025
March	901	15,926

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Following the opening of the International Petroleum Exchange, on April 6th Gas Oil futures are now traded in London.

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Midland in 1980.

* Midland continued its traditionally strong position in lending to industry.

* Assistance to some customers beyond the normal lending criteria to meet temporary difficulties.

* Circumstances have resulted in bad debt provisions up from £12M. to £83M.

* Group profits reduced from 1979 record levels by £84M., but with improved earnings from International Banking.

* Whilst income benefited from higher interest rates operating costs increased significantly.

* Proposed capital levy will weaken the banks at a time when all strength is needed.

Sir David Barran, Chairman of Midland Bank Limited, comments in his statement to shareholders:

Interest rates and costs.

While our income benefited from an average base rate of 16.3% which was 2.6 percentage points higher than in 1979, there were substantial increases in many of the costs of our business. These included larger provisions for bad debts, higher interest on deposits and increased operating costs, especially for staff, which had a significant effect upon profitability.

These factors have had their greatest impact on our domestic banking operations, the backbone of our Group, and their effects have been offset to some extent by improved earnings from our international banking activities. The contribution to profit from this sector has increased despite strengthening competition and the effects of the appreciation of sterling over the year, which has reduced the value of overseas earnings expressed in sterling terms. Our related services activities have also increased their level and proportion of Group earnings.

Our commitment to industry.

Midland has traditionally held a strong position in lending to industry, and recessionary pressures on this sector of the economy caused problems in 1980. We have continued to assist some customers beyond the dictates of traditional lending criteria to meet temporary difficulties where there are grounds for optimism for the basic strength of the customer. We have thereby expressed our commitment to a strong banker-customer relationship, but at a cost, since in many cases, the inherent risks could not be matched by an appropriate interest margin. These circumstances have resulted in a high level of net new provisions for bad debts of £83 M. compared with £12 M. in 1979.

Windfall profits tax—a capital levy.

The imposition of the so-called 'windfall profits tax' by the Chancellor in his recent Budget is a most iniquitous example of political expediency. It is in fact a capital levy, based upon certain deposits and not profits. If enacted it will increase Midland



Bank Group's tax burden by £70 M.

I would suggest that there are grave implications stemming from the Chancellor's proposal: the bank's ability to support industry is impaired; the reliability of London as a major financial centre may be questioned; and, such proposals form a dangerous precedent for many industries

which may find themselves subject to an arbitrary levy applied retrospectively which would deplete the resources needed to support future growth.

Appropriate and forceful representations have been and will continue to be made but as no rational argument has been given to support the levy, the debate is not easy. Despite our continuing recognition of the various qualitative guidelines set out from time to time by the authorities and our support for many companies during the recession, the Government appears intransigent and the levy will weaken the banks at a time when all strength is needed.

Nevertheless, we will make every endeavour to ensure that the effects of the levy do not intrude more than is unavoidable in the development of the Group and in the service to our customers.

Dividend.

In lieu of a final dividend, the Directors have declared a second interim dividend of 1.4 op. per share giving a total in respect of 1980 of 21.5p. per share, compared with 20.0p. per share for 1979.

The Group's Results.

The 1980 consolidated profit of Midland Bank Group, before taxation, including £19M. in respect of profits from associated companies, amounted to £232M., a reduction of £84M. on the record achieved in 1979. After taxation, minority interests and extraordinary items, the profit attributable to shareholders was £169M.

We have continued to maintain a conservative and prudent approach towards the level of capital resources and this remains a major consideration in the further development of the Group's activities.

Sir David Barran's full statement and the report for 1980 are available from:
The Secretary, Midland Bank Limited, Head Office, Poultry, London EC2P 2BX.



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Motoring

Seat belt law gain would be enormous

As yet another attempt, the ninth in ten years, is being made to get legislation through Parliament requiring car drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts. Supporters and opponents are busy marshalling the by now familiar arguments.

Britain is one of the few countries in Europe (the only one in the European Community) without a seat belt law, yet the potential safety benefits are enormous. The Government estimates that if everyone wore belts, 1,000 road deaths and 10,000 serious injuries would be saved each year. A 75 per cent wearing rate would save 650 deaths and 6,500 serious injuries.

Each attempt to introduce legislation has so far proved abortive, either because general elections have been called or because private members' Bills have been talked out by a few determined opponents. The latest initiative may stand a better chance because it is being pursued through an amendment to the Transport Bill, which is an important plank in Government policy.

Given the free vote that the Government has promised, seat belt compulsion should on past evidence win a comfortable majority. Public opinion is more

difficult to gauge. Polls taken three years ago suggested 60 to 40 against compulsion, but more recent surveys have indicated a small majority in favour.

The case for compulsion starts with the figures of likely casualty savings, argues that persuasion by itself has not significantly increased the wearing rate (now only 32 per cent), and goes on to point out that where legislation has been introduced the rate has risen to between 80 and 90 per cent.

Why wear a belt? Because in a frontal collision, responsible for more than 60 per cent of serious injuries, unbelted drivers and passengers move forward at the same speed as the car until they hit something or are thrown out. That something will probably be the windscreen, with resulting head and/or facial injuries.

Head injuries caused by hitting the windscreen, or the multiple injuries caused by ejection, are the commonest causes of death in road accidents to unbelted occupants. Seat belts are also valuable if the car overturns, for they hold the occupant in and prevent the secondary impact.

Among the strongest supporters of legislation are members of the medical profession, who see the results of road accidents at first hand. They are convinced that greater seat belt use would lessen the strain on the National Health Service. Lord Richardson, president of the General Medical Council, has estimated that 150,000 hospital bed nights a year could be spared for other patients.

Thus a seat belt law would not only reduce the pain and suffering of accident victims but would also ease the burden on

those having to wait for hospital space. Delays for hip operations, according to the Royal College of Surgeons, are up to four years in some parts of the country partly because road casualties are taking up the beds.

There is a financial argument as well. The cost of road accidents to the Health Service has been put at £70m a year. If everyone wore seat belts that figure could be substantially reduced and the money spent on, say, new hospitals or improving facilities.

What, then, are the objections to seat belt wearing? A common one is the fear of being trapped inside a car which has caught fire or plunged into water. That is easily disposed of; less than one per cent of serious accidents involve fire or water and if such an accident does occur, belted occupants are less likely to be injured and should be better able to escape.

The argument that it is better to be thrown clear in a crash is even easier to refute. A report by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory showed that ejection at least doubled the risk of being killed.

A further objection is that serious injury, even death, may be inflicted by the seat belt itself; so it is safer not to wear one. Again, that has been disproved by the laboratory. In a sample of 1,126 accidents involving 2,879 occupants there was no evidence that drivers would have fared better without belts.

Recently it was argued that seat belt wearing was undesirable because it gave people a false sense of security and encouraged them to drive less carefully. The "evidence" was that



The Daihatsu Charade — now guaranteed against rust.

in some countries there was no apparent drop in casualties after a seat belt law had been introduced. But there has been no survey of drivers' attitudes which supports that theory. There are other points, such as the undeniable fact that for some people, especially small people, belts can be uncomfortable to wear; but that is a matter of providing adjustable anchor points. It is also said that to enforce, although the experience of other countries is that once the law is made most people comply.

So finally, but not least, we come to that immortal phrase: infringement of personal liberty. If I want to risk killing myself, the argument goes, that is my affair. If you make me wear a seat belt, why not ban smoking, mountain climbing and other hazardous activities? Part of the answer has already been given: not wearing a seat belt can affect other people,

such as those waiting four years for hip operations. And many laws, not least in the motoring field, are infringements of liberty in the strict sense; including the liberty to drive while rendered incapable by drink.

Rustproofed Charades

Revised versions of the little Daihatsu Charade car, with its unique three-cylinder engine, are launched in Britain this week and the most significant innovation is that every model comes with a full rustproofing treatment guaranteed for eight years.

Corrosion has been much in the news in recent months, not least because of the unhappy episode of the Lancia engine mountings. Several makes, including Lancia, Fiat, Volkswagen and Renault, now offer anti-rust guarantees, some on factory applied treatments and others on special after-treatments.

Daihatsu's is in the second category, using the Protolac system, which has an Auto-Mobile Association seal of approval. There is little doubt that after-treatments are more effective than anything that can be done on the assembly line, although much depends on how well they are applied. At the AA's technical centre last week I saw a car that had been rustproofed with one of the most reputable treatments, and yet in some areas the sealant had been put over patches of mud, thus promoting corrosion rather than preventing it.

The arguments against such treatments are that they cost money (from £100 a car) which they do little to enhance the secondhand value, and that many new cars are sold within two or three years, before any rust is likely to have shown itself. Daihatsu's initiative in including the treatment in the price of the car sweeps away those reservations; and it will be interesting to see whether other manufacturers follow.

The changes to the Charade itself include increased power and torque, the fitting of a front stabilizer bar to improve the ride, better sound-proofing and styling modifications. There are three versions of the car, mechanically similar but with different trim and equipment levels, at prices from £3,099 to £3,599.

The Charade's main claims to attention when it was first sold 18 months ago were its unusual engine and excellent fuel consumption. The three-cylinder configuration is claimed by Daihatsu to be the most efficient way of getting optimum fuel consumption and power output from an engine of

993 cc, with one, certainly, consuming 330 cc. The Charade remains one of the most economical cars on the market. The official figures are in town driving, 55.2 steady 56 mph and 3 mpg. I think most owners expect to average at mpg and they can do a star fuel.

Performance is per one-litre and the brake horsepower is, if small on paper, slightly sharper edge. The gear change, on Japanese cars, is smooth; the car rides well, and for its class unusually effective ventilation system, steering, though in opinion, is vague and holding and cornering does not have crisp assurance of rivals.

The principal criticism of the Charade is the lack of interior space. Japanese cars are still designed for drive and a cross engine, the Charade is short of head and leg space. The tailgate is awkward to use, and much of it anyway, the load area can be folded down the rear

Peter W.

Car Buyer's Guide

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Daville

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Computers, 7.05 Grammar Rules, 7.30 The Parliamentary Expenditure Committee. Closedown at 7.55.

12.00 The Space Shuttle: the launch (see Personal Choice).

1.05 News; 1.20 Pebble Mill at One.

2.05 Mr Bean. Closedown at 2.20.

3.25 Trem: controlling avalanches.

3.55 Play School: Julia Donaldson's story A Squash and a Squeeze.

4.20 The Humpbacked Pony: cartoon version of a Russian fairy tale. The storyteller is Martin Jarvis (r).

5.10 The Record Breakers: Japan's bid to set up a new world record in the pastime of domino-topping.

5.40 News; with Richard Whitmore.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Stereochemistry: configurations; 7.05 Maths: multiplying matrices; 7.30 Playing with fire. Closedown at 7.55.

11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1.

1.35 (A) Squash and a Squeeze. Closedown at 11.25.

1.45 International Snooker: Third day's play in the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship, from Sheffield. At the table today are Alex Higgins, Cliff Thorburn, Terry Griffiths and Fred Davis. Further coverage on BBC 2, at 7.30, 10.40 and 11.30.

4.50 Open University: Song of Sixpence; 5.15 Mineral processing; 5.40 The Einstein Tower; 6.05 ABC in Kansas City; 6.30 Isotopes in geology.

6.55 Gardeners' World: Clay

Thames

9.30 Nature of Things: Volunteers in a sleep experiment. 9.55 Patterns: The Basket Makers of Lough Nafooy.

10.20 To See Such Fun: Comedy compilation with Frank Muir, Alec Guinness, Morecambe and Wise, Gracie Fields, Peter Sellers and many others (r).

11.50 Cartoon. 12.00 The Magic Ball: Fantasy adventures with Sam and a witch (r). 12.10 Once Upon a Time: The story of the king and the spider.

12.30 The Television Shuttle: Live coverage of the launching at Cape Canaveral. (See Personal Choice).

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Take the High Road: Life on a Scottish estate. The sheep on a Scottish estate strike again.

2.00 After Noon Film: Interview with Ann Todd, film actress.

What the symbols mean: † STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

5.55 Regional News Magazines. In Nationwide, at 6.20, the Dean Webster, talks about the many roles the cathedral plays.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Sporting celebrities compete in a quiz game, chaired by David Coleman. The captain is Eynon Hughes and Gareth Edwards.

7.30 Film: Carry on Cleo (1965) Roman era burlesque, with Kenneth Williams as Caesar, Sidney James as Antony and Amanda Bart as Cleopatra. (See Personal Choice).

9.00 News; with Peter Woods.

9.25 Starsky and Hutch: A boxer is terrorized by a gangster who warns him that, if he goes to the police, his family will suffer.

10.15 Locomotion - Issues and Answers: The programmes that discuss GLC election issues (elections take place on May 7). Tonight housing.

10.45 News headlines.

10.50 Film: The Night They Raided Minsky's (1968). Comedy about the birth of striptease in New York's East Side in 1925. With Jason Robards, Britt Ekland, Norman Wisdom. (Ends at 12.30).

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC 1, 12.00-12.15, 12.15-12.30, 12.30-12.45, 12.45-1.00, 1.00-1.15, 1.15-1.30, 1.30-1.45, 1.45-2.00, 2.00-2.15, 2.15-2.30, 2.30-2.45, 2.45-3.00, 3.00-3.15, 3.15-3.30, 3.30-3.45, 3.45-4.00, 4.00-4.15, 4.15-4.30, 4.30-4.45, 4.45-5.00, 5.00-5.15, 5.15-5.30, 5.30-5.45, 5.45-6.00, 6.00-6.15, 6.15-6.30, 6.30-6.45, 6.45-7.00, 7.00-7.15, 7.15-7.30, 7.30-7.45, 7.45-8.00, 8.00-8.15, 8.15-8.30, 8.30-8.45, 8.45-9.00, 9.00-9.15, 9.15-9.30, 9.30-9.45, 9.45-10.00, 10.00-10.15, 10.15-10.30, 10.30-10.45, 10.45-11.00, 11.00-11.15, 11.15-11.30, 11.30-11.45, 11.45-12.00, 12.00-12.15, 12.15-12.30, 12.30-12.45, 12.45-1.00, 1.00-1.15, 1.15-1.30, 1.30-1.45, 1.45-2.00, 2.00-2.15, 2.15-2.30, 2.30-2.45, 2.45-3.00, 3.00-3.15, 3.15-3.30, 3.30-3.45, 3.45-4.00, 4.00-4.15, 4.15-4.30, 4.30-4.45, 4.45-5.00, 5.00-5.15, 5.15-5.30, 5.30-5.45, 5.45-6.00, 6.00-6.15, 6.15-6.30, 6.30-6.45, 6.45-7.00, 7.00-7.15, 7.15-7.30, 7.30-7.45, 7.45-8.00, 8.00-8.15, 8.15-8.30, 8.30-8.45, 8.45-9.00, 9.00-9.15, 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